

NOVEMBER 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



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This month we welcomed back Kucheza for our second training in using their customised computer game, Farming Forward. The focus of this training was how to use the game for really good agribusiness training as well as looking at principles of good training in general. Kucheza's input was hugely beneficial in upskilling our trainers, as well as engaging other members of the Ebenezer team, apprentices and out-grower farmers in the local community who we hope in time will also use the game for their agribusiness training.

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Two apprentices had a great opportunity to travel to Harare to participate in a TearFund gathering of young people to share their views on church strategy within Zimbabwe.

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Three members of staff attended the Global Leadership Summit, a 2-day video-streamed conference with over 400,000 participants around the world! As well as talks from speakers representing many different sectors, there were facilitated discussions where attendees could contextualise their learning to their own situations. The wider Ebenezer team has been enjoying hearing from our own attendees as they share highlights and talks in our Friday morning staff breakfasts.

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At the end of the month we hosted the TearFund Zambia director with 17 church leaders from across Zambia. It was a great time of sharing and connecting with the church in Zambia, something we have been keen for as we continue to work towards establishing Ebenezer Livingstone.

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The end of November saw our annual Christmas sport tournament between the divisions of our partner business, Sondelani. We are hugely proud of the Ebenezer soccer team who won the soccer tournament this year! The fun event also brought an opportunity to acknowledge team members who have excelled over the past year, with awards and prizes.

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# CROPPING

34 hectares currently under irrigation



November has been an exciting month as harvesting has begun in earnest. Ripening has been faster than anticipated which is great.

11,574 kgs of tomato were harvested this month, along with 438 kgs of onion, 33,434 kgs of butternut and 3,435 watermelons.

The Bulawayo markets have been loving our produce, especially our butternut which has been the best quality butternut across all Bulawayo markets!



We hoped to plant 4 hectares of sorghum this month, but seed was not available. The same was true for green maize and we were only able to plant half of our planned 8 hectares.

2 hectares of butternut, 1 of tomato and half a hectare of watermelon were planted in November.

We have started to assemble our centre pivot irrigation and look forward to the range of vegetables it will enable us to grow, including potatoes and wheat.





# LIVESTOCK

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We were milking between 42-45 cows in November, producing an average of 13.5 litres of milk per cow per day, with a total of 12,607 litres of milk produced over the month.

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Our dairy started making silage this month. It's a cheap yet nutritious feed, so we are eager to learn how to make good silage and in time achieve our goal of producing all our feed at Ebenezer.

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Our broilers suffered with the heat this month and we lost 434 to the high temperatures. Unfortunately we lost them in their 6th week which meant our current batch made a loss, despite 6,300 going to market.

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Our layer houses continue to run smoothly, although high temperatures in November have brought challenges here, with feed intake reduced and a subsequent negative impact on production.

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While layer houses two and three were producing slightly under target, layer house one was hitting a lay rate of 90%, that's 5% above target!

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Our layers produced a total of 438,930 eggs this month.

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Staff member Leo visited Ebenezer graduates, Nqobile and Nkosilathi, who are looking after nearly 1500 layer birds. They are facing some challenges but seeing a lay rate of 92.6% which is great.

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