

OCTOBER 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



In early October, our 65 first year apprentices graduated from the Foundation Course. Combining their graduation with a Parents Day, we were delighted to have families join us from as far afield as Marondera, to celebrate our first years' success and to enjoy the opportunity of seeing all they have achieved in the past three months.



We are delighted that 59 of our Foundation Course graduates are remaining at Ebenezer and have embarked this month on the Intermediate Course!



Work has continued on the development of Farming Forward, the customised computer game created to help our apprentices in their agribusiness training. Following a competition back in August, three staff members won the honour of being forever immortalised in gaming form, with game characters being based on them (see Brilliant pictured left!).

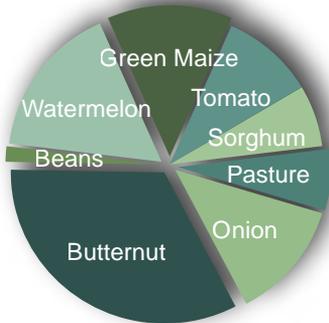


We have started a new series of Family Nights looking at Family, with a focus on topics such as God-made Well-made, Amazing Marriage, Amazing Singleness, and Men and Women - Equal but Different.

We have had some really encouraging visits to Ebenezer graduates this month. It is great to see many of them involved in agricultural enterprises! Betty (pictured left) is managing two green houses and a batch of 1000 chickens!

CROPPING

30.35 hectares currently under irrigation



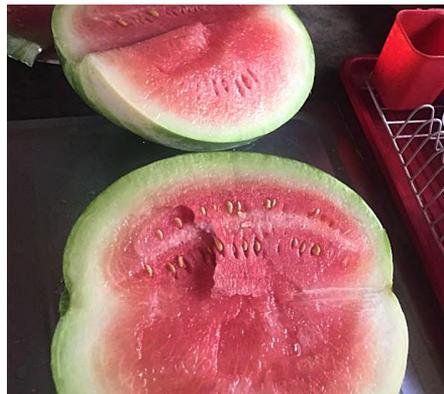
As the hottest month of the year, October has seen temperatures reaching 40°C. Many crops across the country have struggled under this heat but due to our irrigation we are pleased with the progress of our crops, especially with our tomatoes and watermelon.

This month we planted 2 hectares of sorghum, 2 of butternut and 2 of watermelon. We also planted one hectare of tomato and half a hectare of sugar beans.

12,200 bunches of onions were harvested in October. We are drying the remainder of the crop which is still in the ground.

By the end of the month we were beginning to harvest watermelon. This is good news for all of Ebenezer as all staff and apprentices enjoy the refreshment of a watermelon treat in these hot days!

Some of our first year intermediate apprentices are beginning to be awarded their own businesses to run in cropping. This is an exciting step for them into greater responsibility as they prepare their own lands and plant their own crops.



LIVESTOCK



In our dairy, we are happy to report an increase in milk production since we added hay to our feed. This has meant we have been able to increase our supply to Dairibord, with an extra 600 litres being sent in one week.



Our 41 milking cows produced 15,109 litres of milk in October, an average of 13 litres of milk per cow per day.

We welcomed members of the Dairibord milk supply development team to our dairy for a visit this month. They were impressed with our set-up and our solar installation, commenting that our dairy is a national example from a green energy point of view!



Things continue to progress well in our layer houses and we were especially pleased with how our birds have weathered the high temperatures which can often cause an increase in mortalities at this time of year.

Our layers produced a total of 286,594 eggs in November. We are especially pleased with the 92% lay rate in layer house one which was 6% above target!



In October we sent 5000 Ross broilers to market with an FCR of 1.8, a good result for our broilers team with a profit of ZWL1.95 per bird.

We also sent 5600 Sasso birds to market which also made a great profit of ZWL2.11 per bird. Well done to our broilers team!