

SEPTEMBER 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



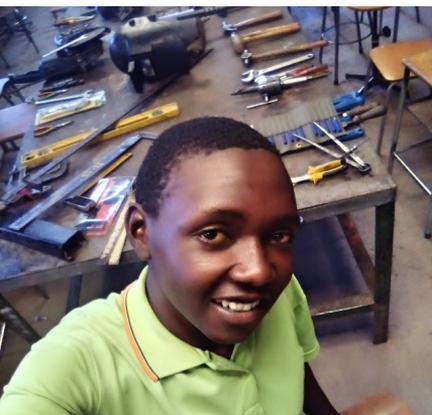
September has seen our 2019 Foundation Course drawing to a close. With our first years completing their first three months at Ebenezer, they have been undertaking assessments and preparing for our Foundation Graduation and Parent Day in early October.



As our Foundation Course draws to an end for this year, so too does the Youth Alpha Course we have been running on Family Nights. It has been a fantastic course, culminating in an overnight trip to Shalom for talks on the Holy Spirit, times of prayer, a lot of fun and games and an engaging talk on "How can I make the most of the rest of my life?" We have seen many of our apprentices impacted throughout the Alpha Course and we are delighted that some of them have come to know Jesus for the first time.



This month we introduced Family birthday cakes to celebrate the September birthdays in each family. Each family had their own cake, beautifully made by one of our Bible trainers, Hlulani.

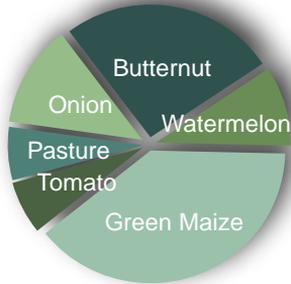


Our eight bio-digesters are now all up and running and our kitchen has begun cooking using the fuel we are making!

We have been enjoying catching up with some of our recent graduates this month. 2019 graduate Lawrence Ngoma has been benefiting from a 3 month welding and building course following which he hopes to be able to build his own broiler house!

# CROPPING

30.85 hectares currently under irrigation



We planted 4 hectares of green maize this month. We were thoroughly disappointed to lose several hectares of maize to wild animals and we will be replanting in November.

3 hectares of butternut were planted this month as well as 1 hectare of watermelon.

Alongside the planting this month, 5,929 bunches of onions were harvested.

It was with much excitement this month that we acquired our first ever centre pivot irrigation equipment! The pivot will demonstrate to our apprentices another form of watering and will also allow us to grow crops which require overhead irrigation such as barley, oats and wheat. This will benefit our Dairy with feed supplies! The pivot can irrigate a total of 12 hectares and we are clearing a further 6 Ha of land to place it, enlarging our land under irrigation to 56 hectares!

The pecan trees we have grafted have taken well and the trees we have planted out are starting to bud as the weather warms up. We are starting to germinate our next lot of pecan seeds.



# LIVESTOCK



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This month we sent 5000 Ross broiler birds and 5188 Sasso birds to market.  
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We were pleased with our first batch of Sasso birds which proved to be stronger than the Ross birds and with few mortalities. However, they do take longer to reach market weights - 8 weeks rather than the 5-6 weeks it takes to grow a batch of Ross birds. As a result, we are likely to continue focusing on Ross birds at Ebenezer for the foreseeable future.  
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The majority of our layers flocks continue to perform above hyline targets by 1-2% which is pleasing.  
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Our layers produced a total of 192,885 eggs in September. This is slightly down on the previous month due to Layer House 3 being empty for two weeks prior to us placing 9,002 birds in mid-September.  
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Our dairy sent 13 young bulls for rearing at Hamara farm in September. This has freed up time and space at Ebenezer to focus on caring for our young female cows.  
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We have been appreciating our relationship with our new customer Dairibord who have been supporting us in terms of advice, connections and services.  
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In September our dairy herd produced 12,789 litres of milk, an average of 11.68 litres of milk per cow per day. By the end of the month we had 43 cows in production.  
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