

DECEMBER 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



It was fantastic in December to welcome back to Ebenezer 2015 graduate Mgcini Mpofu. This visit was extra special because Mgcini came all the way from the USA where he is based with his wife and young son. Mgcini brought with him a team of students from the university at which he has been studying and working - the team did a great job of getting involved in all aspects of Ebenezer life and our apprentices enjoyed celebrating with them over the festive period.



Staff members Godfrey and Leo have been taking weekly trips to catch up with Ebenezer graduates - this month they visited Phakamile and Tiny who are working in Ntabazinduna, about 25 km from Bulawayo, and doing an excellent job with their plot of butternut!



The Ebenezer soccer teams are continuing to dominate in recent tournaments and this month won the Sondelani 2019 Fun Games all-rounder tournament!

We have been longing for rain throughout December - we saw very little but did experience a couple of storms which brought down several trees around Ebenezer. We're grateful that there was no damage to property or people!

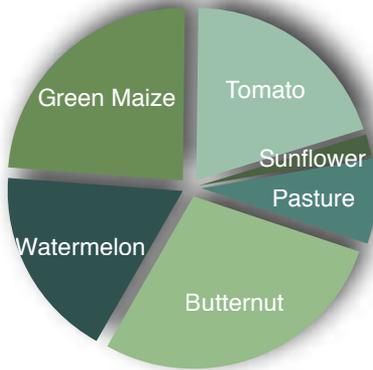


As always, Christmas was a joyful time at Ebenezer with those on site enjoying a festive meal and plenty of games. New Year was also celebrated, with some apprentices attending a local all night prayer meeting!

We have already been receiving lots of applications for our courses starting in July 2020 and so we have been having fun conducting preselection meetings where we meet potential applicants, introduce them to Ebenezer and hold informal interviews.

# CROPPING

25 hectares currently under irrigation



December has been a busy month of both planting and harvesting. 5 hectares of green maize have been planted, along with 1 hectare of butternut and 1 hectare of tomato.

We had planned to plant 4 hectares of sorghum in December but the seed was not available.

This month 65,732 kg of butternut was harvested, as well as 6,452 watermelons. 80,180 kg of tomatoes were harvested in December which was above our projected target for the month.

Transport logistics made it difficult to deliver some of our watermelon harvest to town, however on the whole our harvests have been making a significant impact on the Bulawayo market. In one day alone we sent four 10-tonne trucks of produce to town!

Apprentices have also been busy this month trellising some of the tomato crop in the ground.



# LIVESTOCK



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The dairy finished the year with healthy cows that are in great shape and milk production that is gradually increasing. Thanks to our stores, milk sales have been boosted which has been a big help to the dairy this month.  
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We saw our dairy feed costs drop this month which is encouraging and partly due to us growing and feeding our own fodder crops. We are also silaging at the moment which will help us lower costs even more in the future.  
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On average, 37 milking cows were in production in December, producing a total of 13,726 litres of milk, an average of 13.2 litres per cow per day.  
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Our layer chickens continue to perform above target in 2 out of our 3 layer houses. We saw a slight decline in performance in our 3rd layer house but considering the challenge of high temperatures resulting in low feed intake, we are pleased with their production this month.  
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In total we produced 279,912 eggs this month, a decline on previous months due to 4,000 off-lay birds being sold. Our apprentices have been engaging really well with all aspects of the poultry management and they have especially been enjoying the daily discipleship sessions conducted in the layer houses!  
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3,800 sasso birds were sent for slaughter in December with a satisfactory food conversion rate of 2.3 and an average weight of 2 kg per bird.  
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