

FEBRUARY 2020



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



In answer to our prayer of last month (and the preceding months too!) we did receive some rain in February. It was a good amount to wet our fields but not enough to keep local rivers running consistently, so we are still praying for more!



Huge congratulations to staff members Brilliant and Sithabiso Khoza whose second daughter, Joanna Sibongile, was born on 7 February!



We were delighted to host a DNA Health Care Solutions clinic at Ebenezer this month. DNA is a new initiative offering free or affordable health consultations, and during their one Saturday with us, their 1 doctor and 2 nurses were able to meet with over 70 patients at Ebenezer!



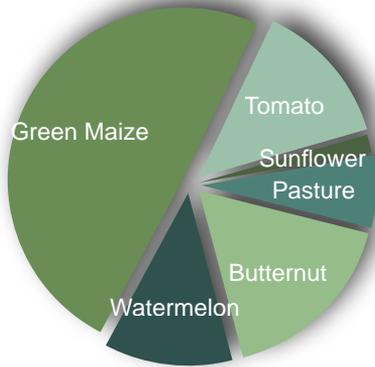
We were very excited this month to receive the roofing structures for 3 new staff houses and an Ebenezer Store that we plan to start building in the coming weeks! Work has also begun to rethatch our Dining Hall.

In February we welcomed back 4 graduates from previous years who are joining our staff team for our 6 month graduate training scheme. This scheme exists to offer further training to graduates in leadership, management and technical skills with a view to raise up staff for Ebenezer and further equip graduates for specialised roles within other organisations.

We are continuing to receive a good number of applications for places on our courses starting in July and weekly preselection meetings with candidates have been held throughout February.

CROPPING

29.5 hectares currently under irrigation



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An exciting development this month has been the installation of our own vermicompost station, where worms will be turning organic matter into compost. Several members of the staff team have been busy learning about vermicompost and we're all excited to see our vegetable scraps turned into rich compost for our demonstration garden!

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In February we harvested 3,591 kg of butternut, 5,300 kg of tomatoes and 18,576 cobs of green maize.

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Our yields of butternut and watermelon were reduced due to fruit fly.

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We also planted 3.5 ha of green maize, 1 ha of butternut, 2 ha of watermelon, 3 ha of tomato and 1 ha of cow peas.

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Our apprentices have been enthusiastic in their field work and we are pleased to see that the majority of them are hitting their targets and attaining their graduation reward levels.

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LIVESTOCK



There has been much to celebrate in the Ebenezer dairy this month! Our milk quality and percentage of butterfat and protein has increased. As our main customer, Dairibord, pays for quality, this is excellent news for our dairy.



Dairibord is also aggressively increasing its milk price in order to help dairies in business. Higher milk prices are always welcomed by us!



Our dairy has also been working well together with our cropping team this month, with the cropping team providing plenty of maize for our feed, with sorghum soon to follow and a crop of winter oats to come. This is particularly exciting because all of this 'green stuff' will make our cows' digestive systems healthier which will lead to more milk in the long run. A big thank you to the cropping team from the dairy team!

In February we had an average of 43 milking cows producing on average 13.5 litres of milk per day. In total we produced 14,593 litres of saleable milk.

12,600 Ross broiler chicks were placed in mid-February and are making good progress.



Our layer team culled 1,600 off-lay birds in February. We are working to replace cages before placing new birds. Egg production remains good with the young flock in layer house 2 getting closer to hitting target lay rates.

In February our layer birds produced a total of 348,908 eggs.
