

MAY 2020



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



With various lockdown restrictions remaining in place throughout May, our apprentices have been adjusting to lifestyle changes such as socially distanced lessons and mandatory face coverings in public. We have seen some great creativity as staff and apprentices have been designing their own masks!



The end of the Ebenezer year is drawing close and May has seen our second year apprentices especially getting very excited for graduation and the opportunities beyond Ebenezer. We are delighted that several apprentices have already secured employment within the agricultural industry, while others are still attending interviews and pursuing other avenues. Please pray with us for those graduating, that God would guide each one of them into the purposes he has for them



Work has been delayed on the construction of our new store and staff housing as a result of the continued lockdown restrictions, however we were pleased this month to make progress in producing bricks for when building work can recommence.



As the year draws to a close, we have focused our family nights on having quality time and fun together in our smaller family groups. Families have been enjoying braais, pizza making and pancake eating, among other (largely food-based) activities, as well as taking time to pray together, especially for those apprentices graduating and leaving Ebenezer in June.

Our families also had great fun this month creating music videos to be judged by an external panel of judges. They showed a lot of musical talent as well as some developing technological expertise in filming and editing their videos!

# CROPPING

18.5 hectares currently  
under irrigation



Big news this month has been the installation of two greenhouses. Having received a grant for these houses in March, we're really pleased to have been able to install them so quickly as we will now be able to grow tomatoes through the winter!

The lucerne we planted among our pecan trees in April is doing well and we have seen great germination!

The tomato crop mentioned last month is now fully harvested and we're delighted with the yield of 101 tons per hectare!

We also harvested 6,868 kg of butternut, 1,342 heads of watermelon and 18,972 cobs of green maize.

Silaging has continued as a joint operation between our cropping and dairy teams. We have honed our skills and improved our methods and now have enough silage to feed our cows through the dry season until November!

In May we planted 4.5 hectares of oats. This is another collaboration between our cropping team and dairy, a winter crop that will provide feed for our cows.



# LIVESTOCK



With our new chicken coop built, this month the dairy added 300 SASSO chickens to the herd! The chickens will eat worms and insects that bother the cows. They will have a great diet and leave the dairy cleaner for the cows. Cows and chickens have always been a good pair in agriculture and we are excited to experiment with this principle at the dairy.



Our dairy also continues to grow with new calves being born. 23 calves have been born so far this year.

This month our dairy produced a total of 18,283 litres of milk, which is an average of 11.2 litres of milk per cow per day.



A good development in May has been arrival of Hamara's new vet and poultry manager, Michael Muzhandu. Michael is visiting us weekly to provide veterinarian expertise and help us improve our poultry management.

Our two layer flocks produced a total of 408,938 eggs in May. We have had mostly second year apprentices working in the layer houses and their coaches have noticed considerable growth both in terms of spiritual maturity and in their understanding of the layer business.



The layer chicks we placed in April are growing well. They spent 6 weeks on the floor and have now been moved into cages.

In broiler news, this month we placed a smaller batch of 7,500 birds. We would usually farm a batch of 12,000 but we have reduced our numbers in order to carry out maintenance to our broiler equipment.