

JUNE 2020



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



-----

This month we celebrated our annual graduation, with 46 apprentices graduating from our 2 year Advanced Course and an additional 54 graduating from our 1 year Intermediate Course. With lockdown restrictions in place, this year's graduation had a more intimate feel as we were unable to invite family members and the local community to celebrate with us. However, this didn't lessen the sense of occasion and we had a fantastic time congratulating one another, presenting certificates and prizes and of course enjoying a celebratory feast together.

-----

-----

With lockdown restrictions easing slightly, we were delighted this month to complete our preselection process (normally completed in April!) and to be able to invite 100 applicants to two selection camps we will be holding in early July just before our new courses start on July 13th!

-----

-----

Another highlight this month was the opportunity for graduates working locally to Ebenezer, to gather at Shalom for an interesting teaching and discussion on how culture shapes decision-making and behaviour. Staff member Leo has been endeavouring to meet regularly with groups of graduates as we seek to continue to walk with them in discipleship beyond their time at Ebenezer.

-----

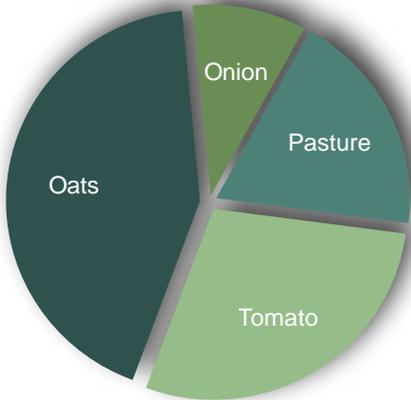
-----

This month the Ebenezer staff team spent a few days reflecting on the past year and preparing for the year to come. As well as time for prayer and thanksgiving there was a lot of discussion about areas for growth and development. It was agreed that one focus in the months to come would be to hit international standards in our cropping production. Doing this will help apprentices appreciate even more the value of the cropping business as well as giving the greatest leverage in continuing to develop staff and apprentice housing.

-----

# CROPPING

10.5 hectares currently under irrigation



.....

This month we closed our butternut and watermelon crops. 7463 kg of butternut were harvested over the month and 171 heads of watermelon.

.....

Tomato harvesting continues and in June we harvested 109,900 kg.

.....

We have been packaging our tomatoes into 1 kg bags in order to get a better price.

.....

Land preparation has been completed in our new greenhouses this month and with the water now connected we are ready to plant!

.....

Land preparation for our summer planting has begun in the fields as well. We have also planted tomato seed with an external nursery in preparation for our summer planting.

.....



# LIVESTOCK



June has been a good month in the dairy. Our new second years are showing themselves to be very capable as they take over duties from our recent graduates.



Our new SASSO birds continue to grow well at the dairy and are finding the majority of their feed from scavenging around the dairy.



Silaging has been completed for the year and the dairy is thankful to the cropping team for enough silage to feed our cows until October! With time we look forward to working further to grow more feed crops and thus reduce our production costs.



The dairy has 52 cows producing milk in June and a total of 17,016 saleable milk was produced, which is an average of 12.5 litres per cow per day.

We have faced some challenges in our layer houses with the cages in layer house 2 collapsing! We are glad to report no mortalities resulting from this, and we are now busy building new cages to house 15,000 birds. The new cages will allow the house to hold almost twice the number of chickens as previously.

Our layer birds produced 389,087 eggs in June.

In June we finished our current batch of Ross broilers with a total of 7326 birds going to slaughter. We are awaiting the results for this batch.