

JULY 2020



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



July was a busy month with lots of changes as we held two selection camps from which we invited 62 new apprentices to join us for our Foundation Course which started on July 13th! Our new first years have started with plenty of enthusiasm and we have been enjoying getting to know them. A novelty this year is that for the first time ever, we have more new female apprentices than male!



With the start of a new Ebenezer year, we are enjoying getting back into lessons as well as starting a new series of Family Nights working our way through Youth Alpha.



July saw the end of our 6 month graduate training scheme which started in January with 4 Ebenezer graduates. It has been excellent to see these young people grow in their farming and business knowledge as well as in their leadership skills as they have managed apprentices and taken on leadership roles.



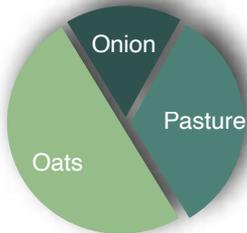
Despite the ongoing challenges of life under lockdown, we are glad to report that building work continues at Ebenezer and this month we have installed a shower and toilet block for our single male staff - this has been the cause much excitement and jealousy as this is our first ablutions block to provide hot showers!

As well as ablution blocks for our male staff, we have continued to make some progress on our staff housing, with foundations going down and walls going up!

We are delighted to have welcomed Tinotenda Nyanhete onto the staff team. Passionate about Business and about the Ebenezer vision, Tino is getting stuck into helping us manage the layer business as well as teaching one of our second year Business classes.

CROPPING

6 hectares currently under irrigation



There is lots currently going on with our pecan section and this month work has begun in our nursery to graft 3000 trees. Further to this, we are also working with out-grower farmers to oversee the planting of up to 2500 trees! In July we held a training for prospective farmers as they prepare to receive their saplings.

Our tomato crop has now been closed with a final 1350kg harvested this month. We are pleased at how far into winter we have been able to keep harvesting.

The 1200 tomato plants in our new greenhouse are doing very well and it is great to be growing tomatoes during winter - this means our harvest will hit the market before most other producers.

Our apprentices have been working hard to prepare land for August planting. During July the land preparation in 15 hectares was completed. We are planning to plant over 20 hectares during August.

July has also been a busy month in our demo plot with our first harvest of chia seeds. We have been experimenting with chia as a possible high-value crop for small-scale farmers and we are really pleased with our yield of 10kg seed from 50m², a harvest within the range of commercial standards!



LIVESTOCK



July has been a challenging month for our layer section as they recover from the collapsed cages last month. All the birds have been placed in new cages but it is taking for a while for production to pick up.



The new H-cages we have installed in layer house 2 are also providing their own challenges as we adapt to a new method of manure removal! The task is a labour-intensive one until we receive mechanised belts to help.



This month we started supplying our kitchen with our own male SASSO birds. We have about 140 females remaining who are growing very well and in time will provide eggs for our kitchen.

We have received pleasing results from our last batch of broilers. Eight apprentices worked to grow the batch and they made a pleasing profit of 26c per bird. We were particularly pleased with our low mortality of 3.5%.



Good news from our dairy is that this month our cows started grazing on the oat fields planted by our cropping team. This obviously helps us save money on feed and also means we can save our silage until later in the year.

This month an average of 44 milking cows produced 16,362 litres of saleable milk which was an average of 11.2 litres per cow per day.