

NOVEMBER 2020



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



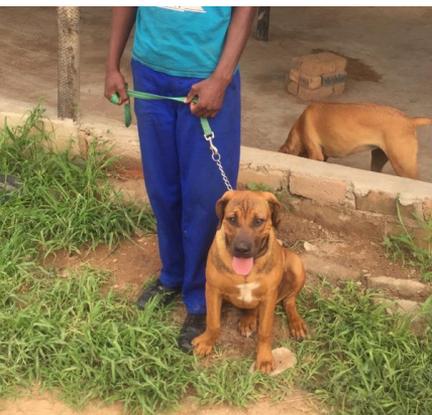
A highlight in November was an excellent training given to our staff team from Keith Heywood, an international business consultant who has journeyed from being a goat-herder to an international inspirational speaker. Keith shared on the importance of knowing ourselves as leaders. He is a dynamic presenter and our session with him was full of fun, laughter and insightful moments.



Another highlight this month was a visit from Reouhidi Ndjerarou and Gilbert Maluza from the newly launched Ebenezer Zambia! Reouhidi is overseeing the new Ebenezer in Livingstone while Gilbert oversees the out-grower programmes in the surrounding community. We were delighted they were able to visit us despite travel restrictions and we enjoyed 3 great days together, sharing about Ebenezer's culture and way of doing things, as well as praying together. It was an encouraging time for us all, and we are excited for Ebenezer Livingstone who welcomed their first apprentices at the end of the month.



Another group of visitors we enjoyed in November was some representatives from UK Trade Partnerships, an arm of the UK government working in Zimbabwe to find companies who can export produce to the UK. They have a particular interest in small-scale and female farmers and so we are beginning to look with them at crops we could grow for export. This was an initial visit to get to know each other and we are excited about the possibilities this partnership could open up.



We are used to welcoming new apprentices to Ebenezer, but this month we welcomed 2 new apprentices of a different kind: Puppies Roxy and Lizzy have arrived at Ebenezer to assist our security guards, particularly on their night patrols. A specialist dog trainer from National Parks has been training our dogs as well as instructing our security guards in dog handling.

CROPPING

36 hectares currently
under irrigation



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We have run a line across the dam to the new solar station installed there and our centre pivot is now solar powered! With a few more pieces in place, the pump for the pivot will also be running on solar soon. Work has also continued on the solar station to power our main water pump - the frames are up and ready for panels to be fitted. Once complete, all of our irrigation will be solar-powered!

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Our pecan team are doing excellently. We have completed germinating and planting this year's batch of pecan seed. We hope these will be ready for grafting in June 2021. Our pecan consultant visited in November and was delighted by the progress in the nursery and with our in-field trees.

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This month saw the start of the real harvesting season. A total of 20,200 kg of butternut was harvested, along with 24,000 kg of tomatoes, 2006 cucumbers and nearly 2000 watermelons. Malison, our apprentice in charge of the green house has been busy cling wrapping cucumbers so they can be sold in supermarkets as well as whole sale.

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We planted 2 hectares of butternut this month as well as a hectare each of watermelon and green beans. Good rains have kept crops going throughout this hot month. We are still hoping for more, to give run off into the rivers.

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LIVESTOCK



This month our dairy turned a corner in milk production which is up to 14.5 litres per cow per day. This has come from introducing more easily digestible feed ingredients, increasing feed quantity, and changing our feed trough design. And of course from the impact of a great team working together!



We have been grateful to have seen some really good rains this month - this has meant far more grazing in our paddocks for our cows to enjoy.

Our total saleable milk production in November was 13,305 litres. A new trial is underway to introduce a third daily milking with some cows, to see how much it increases milk production.



The building of layer house 4 has continued at pace, with the roof and floor now complete and cages in the process of being assembled. Our bird supplier has kindly granted us an extra 2 weeks to complete what is needed before we place the new flock. This means placement will now happen in mid-December.

The younger flock in layer house 3 continue to increase in lay rate. Unfortunately, there was a cage collapse in layer house 2; our team responded very rapidly and had a new cage erected within 24 hours. We are currently working with our workshops team to install stronger end frames to ensure no further cage collapses!



In mid-November 7669 broiler birds were placed which are now 2 weeks old. Ebenezer graduate, Felix, joined the staff team in September and is enjoying overseeing the farming of this batch.
