

JANUARY 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



With Christmas and the New Year passed, this month our apprentices started a new training term. One of our focuses of the year ahead is to standardise and format our own modular Business Curriculum and this month we have started work to create and deliver this new curriculum which has been exciting for both staff and apprentices.

Another highlight for our training team this month, was a week long training on teaching Business with the aid of game-based learning. We have been working with Kucheza, a company in the Netherlands, for some time now, looking at how we can enhance our Business training with the aid of a video game called "Farming Forward" which simulates the real-life farming and business context our apprentices may find themselves in beyond Ebenezer. It was a good week of input and discussion as we continue to formulate our Business curriculum.

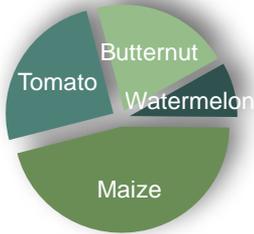
With the start of a new year we have also started a new series for our Family Nights, looking at Living in the Bigger Picture and how an eternal perspective shapes how we live our lives every day.

We are continuing to have a fantastic rainy season with downpours almost daily. It is great for our crops and the dam, but sometimes challenging for our vehicles

This month we welcomed our first attachment student for this year. Ndandatho Magagula who is studying Animal Science and Range Land Management at Lupane State University hasn't hesitated to throw herself into life at Ebenezer and is currently working with our dairy team.

CROPPING

24 hectares currently
under irrigation



Our focus in cropping this month has been on planting, weeding and harvesting. We have experienced a lot of rain in January which has had a positive effect on our germination but has also contributed to an increase in weeds in our fields.

We harvested 73 tons of tomato, 52.7 tons of butternut, 114 watermelons and 21,600 cobs of maize. We planted 2 hectares of butternut, 1 of watermelon and 5 hectares of maize.

In January, we welcomed Ebenezer graduate, Lubelihle Ngwenya onto the cropping team to assist our coaches.

We have a new routine for our apprentices with orientation first thing in the morning and debrief at the end of the day. These have been good times of sharing plans, challenges, successes and encouragement.

This month we finished harvesting 3 blocks of tomato, 4 of butternut and two each of watermelon and maize. Our apprentices have mostly done well with these crops and they continue to learn.

The fruit trees we planted a few years ago are now fruitful and this month staff and apprentices enjoyed a good harvest of mangos!



LIVESTOCK



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In January we delivered 7286 broilers to the market. Whilst we were pleased to achieve a mortality under 5%, our FCR of 1.9 was a little disappointing. The average live weight of the birds was 2.17 kg,

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There have been some challenges with the lighting systems in our broiler houses. They were running on solar but with some of the inverters now gone, we are having to use a small generator for lights until we can implement a longer term solar solution.

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We are also working on re-doing the drinking systems in our broiler houses.

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Our layer flocks produced a total of 405,685 eggs in January.

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Our milk production has been going from strength to strength and this month our cows reached a new production record of 17 litres per cow per day!

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In total we had an average of 37 milking cows producing 11,903 litres of saleable milk this month.

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We are having great discussions about to keep our cows this productive as the grass begins to dry up. Silage has been a challenge but as per usual, challenges have provided great learning opportunities for our apprentices. The way we have been making silage with less and less machinery has helped our apprentices see that they can make silage themselves at home.

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