

FEBRUARY 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



Last month we reported on our new Family Night series looking at life in the Bigger Picture and what it means to live with an eternal perspective. There has been some very interesting discussions and we have enjoyed inviting friends from outside of Ebenezer to share on the topic. A particular favourite has been Augustine Mahlangu who always connects well with our apprentices through his humorous yet direct approach.



We were glad to welcome DNA doctors and nurses to Ebenezer again this month. With lockdown still in place, it has not been easy for apprentices and staff to access healthcare, so we are very grateful for the support and service offered to us by DNA.



We were relieved this month to complete the second staff house we have been working to finish for some months.

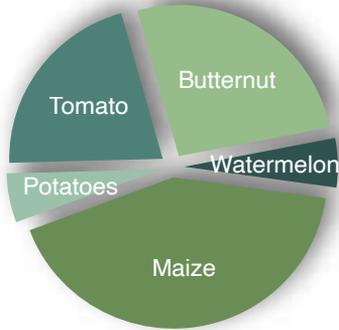
As part of our aim to best-prepare our apprentices for life beyond Ebenezer, we have begun bi-weekly sessions for our second years with prospective employers and past graduates who are able to give them insight into what to expect after graduation, as well as what might be expected from them by employers or business partners. These sessions have been very informative and provided a good opportunity for our apprentices to ask questions.



Fun news this month was seeing Ebenezer Matobo graduate, Oscar Mumpane, take his first ever flight and head to Zambia for several weeks to assist Ebenezer Livingstone as the apprentices start their first batches of broilers. Oscar has several years experience as a broiler out-grower field coach and will be coaching staff and apprentices on the technical details of raising broilers, as well as helping to build a thatched broiler house for 1000 birds as a demonstration to the local community.

CROPPING

19 hectares currently under irrigation



.....
In February we harvested 13 tons of tomatoes, 7 tons of butternut and 200 watermelons. We also harvested 600 dozen cobs of maize.
.....

.....
It was also a busy month of planting, with 3 hectares of tomato seedlings going into the ground as well as 2 hectares of butternut, 2 of maize and one hectare of potato.
.....

.....
We planted our onion seedbed in February and we expect to transplant 1.5 hectares in March.
.....

.....
It has been an incredible year for rain and the trend continued throughout February. On the whole this is a wonderful thing, however it did lead to some of our tomato and watermelon crops being damaged and a decreased yield as a result.
.....

.....
In the last two months, 700 pecan trees have been selected for patch bud grafting. We estimate that 50% of the grafts have taken so far. We will know our final success rate with these grafts by the end of March.
.....



LIVESTOCK



Our current batch of 8080 broilers are growing well and are currently performing better than previous batches. Our apprentices have been working with drive and enthusiasm and have done a great job of keeping the birds well looked after and dry in these rainy days.



The new flock of layer birds placed in our layer house 4 have reached laying age and we are happy to report a significant increase in lay-rate and egg size from these birds.

In total our four layer houses produced 439,490 eggs in February.



We had an average of 35 milking cows in production during February. They produced a total of 17,731 litres of milk, of which 16,100 litres were saleable. The cows were producing a good daily average of 18 litres of milk per cow, the highest average production we have seen at Ebenezer.



The heavy rains of February brought a few health challenges, which is to be expected in a dairy herd. However, a positive consequence of the rain has been the abundance of green grass around to eat, which has kept feed costs down significantly.

Our highest producing cow, 14170, has been producing a whopping 30 litres a day!