

MARCH 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



With lockdown restrictions beginning to ease, it was nice this month to start receiving more visitors to Ebenezer. TMG (an initiative which trains farmers across the country in agriculture and business) have resumed their trainings which for us has meant 2 groups of trainees visiting us at Ebenezer to see our farming in action. We have also had visits from various church groups who are interested to see the work we are doing.



It was also super this month to welcome Sarah Gerhardt to Ebenezer for a week long workshop with our second years on the Father Heart of God. This was a meaningful time for our second years, exploring their identities and growing in their faith.



Three apprentices had an exciting opportunity this month to attend a 3-day TearFund "Youth Boot Camp" in Harare, an event organised to create platforms for young Zimbabweans to influence policy and decision-makers to prioritise investment in youth-driven green jobs and combat extreme inequality. Our apprentices thoroughly enjoyed the event as well as their first time experiencing life in the capital city!

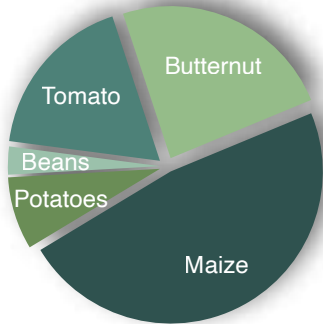


March saw the end of training block 3 with all apprentices applying themselves to various projects and assessments at the end of the block. We are having an exciting time making our assessments as practical and relevant as possible; this has meant apprentices visiting local farmers to apply what they have learnt this block as well as preparing some lively presentations for their peers!

This month we congratulated team member, Leo Maphosa, as he married Lashier Ncube. We are excited to welcome Lashier to Ebenezer in April!

CROPPING

17 hectares currently under irrigation



Our seed potatoes continue to germinate and grow. Seed potato takes a shorter time to germinate than table potato, so we are hopeful that this crop will be ready to harvest before any winter frost.

We are pleased with the progress of some late maize we planted in efforts to continue supplying silage to the dairy. This has been our greatest yield of silage from one hectare of maize.

Apprentices have been busy trellising and pruning tomatoes in the last month and our tomato fields are looking fantastic! We are hoping this crop will hit the winter market and therefore bring us a good price.

We have successfully transplanted half a hectare of onions from our seedbed, with a further hectare to transplant in April.

Some of the pecan trees we planted last year became waterlogged in the heavy rains this year. Now that the rains have passed, we are happy to see most of these trees bouncing back to good health.



LIVESTOCK



In total our 4 layers houses produced 505,165 eggs in March.

We have been particularly pleased with the birds in layer house two. Whilst birds usually maintain a good lay-rate until about 65-75 weeks, these birds are now 80 weeks old but are continuing to lay above the target rate!

We were delighted with the result of a broiler batch closed in March. 8080 birds were placed and of those 7463 went for slaughter, with an average weight of 2.72 kg per bird and a decent Food Conversion Ratio of 1.91. This resulted in a profit of 52 cents per bird. Well done to the seven apprentices and their coaches involved in growing the batch!

In March we had 36 cows producing an average of 16.7 litres of milk per day. In total we produced 16,592 litres of milk, of which 15,451 litres were saleable.

This month the dairy also had 6 heifers reach the correct body weight to go to the bull to be serviced. Some fantastic heifers were born this month, keeping our stock of heifers in line with projections for herd growth.

We received a positive visit from the Zimbabwean Dairy Farmers Association in March, who have renewed our licence for another year.

