

# APRIL 2021



# EBENEZER MATOBO

# NEWS



With our June graduation fast approaching, April saw apprentices starting their final training block of the year. This is always an exciting block as second years prepare for their next steps beyond Ebenezer. At the end of this month we had an excellent Opportunities Fair with local businesses, farms and other ventures presenting on many different opportunities for Ebenezer graduates. It was an exciting event for our second years and it is quite amazing to see the options available to them beyond Ebenezer!



As we enter the last few weeks before graduation, we are focusing our Family Nights on having fun and celebration in our individual families. Families are following a weekly rotation of activities with a focus on spending quality time together as well as enjoying games, fun activities and lots of good food!



Our second years enjoyed a week of workshops with Campus Crusade for Christ who spent time teaching and training on evangelism and discipleship. It was an exciting few days which included the opportunity to witness, serve and share Christ in the local community.

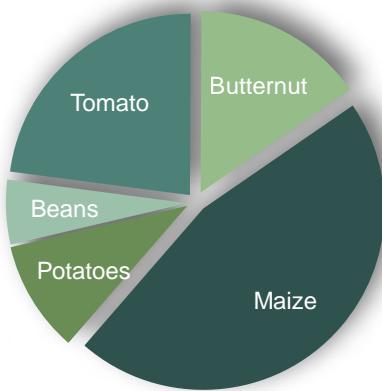


With applications for our 2021 course closing at the end of March, this month saw us making the difficult decisions of whom to invite to our Selection Camp in May. While it is hard turning down many applicants, at the same time we are thankful that this year, like last, we will be able to host two selection camps with 50 participants each. Of those who come we hope to offer places to 60 new apprentices.

With graduation approaching, our communication lessons are focusing on CV writing and interview preparation. One of our classes appreciated a visit from HR expert Pretty Kahlu who shared stories and top tips on how to excel in a job interview.

# CROPPING

13 hectares currently under irrigation



We have been busy preparing our green houses and they are now ready for us to transplant 1800 tomato seedlings and 18 beds of green vegetables.

We have started harvesting tomatoes this month and so far have sent 1.5 tons to market. As well as tomatoes, we have also harvested 4 tons of butternut and silaged 3 hectares of maize.

One hectare each of beans and onions were planted in April.

Despite some challenges with sourcing the right irrigation pieces, we were happy this month to successfully transplant a hectare of onions from our seedbed where germination has been good.

As apprentices enter their final few weeks before the end of the Ebenezer year, it is great to see them working with joy and continuing to engage wholeheartedly in their field work.



# LIVESTOCK



Fantastic news for our dairy this month has been the purchase of a silage cutter and feed mixer. There are now silage stores all over the farm and this will be the first year that we have enough silage to take us through to December. Initial estimates are that the silage can feed both milking cows and dry cows. The silage cutter allows the dairy to make twice the silage with half the labour and the feed mixer means we can mix own feed and stop buying dairy meal rations from town.

A slightly scary incident at the end of April was a fire at our dairy. While we lost a lot of hay, we are very grateful that there was no damage to humans, animals or any of our dairy buildings or equipment!

In total our dairy produced 21,591 litres of milk in April, of which 20,165 litres was saleable. We had 36 cows producing an average of 17.2 litres each per day.

In April we placed 10,062 broiler chicks who have done well through the brooding phase.

We have finished selling off-lays from layer house 2 and have subsequently moved 6,800 birds into that house from layer house 4.

Our layer birds produced a total of 526,134 eggs in April.