

JULY 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



We have much to celebrate as we look back over the month of July - especially the arrival of 61 new apprentices! With COVID peaking again and significant travel restrictions, we delayed the start of our new year in order to allow more time for our new arrivals to join as and when they could. We are absolutely thrilled that the entire group have made it to us and we started our Orientation Week with them on 26th July.



There is always a lot of energy and enthusiasm that accompanies our new arrival and this year has been no different. Both 1st and 2nd year apprentices have started their year with a great attitude and have thrown themselves into Ebenezer life wholeheartedly!



Our Second Years have started some exciting new Business lessons looking at marketing but with a very practical application. They have been competing against one another to sell biscuits and lollipops and along the way have learned a lot about supply and demand, the effects of competition and many more practical marketing skills.

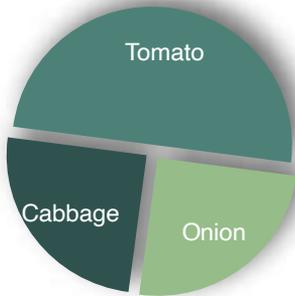


We have also started our Advanced Bible lessons, but instead of classroom teaching we are enjoying group Bible studies looking at the book of Ephesians. These have been excellent times of delving into the Word and both staff and apprentices are growing as a result! One fantastic fruit from the sessions is several apprentices asking to be baptised, something we are excited to see happen in the coming weeks.

With borders slowly continuing to open up, we are very happy that several of our staff team have been able to visit Ebenezer Zambia in the last month, providing some great encouragement and support there as they undergo some major leadership changes. We are loving being so connected with the team there and we're looking forward to more trips across the border from both sides!

CROPPING

4 hectares currently under irrigation



In July, we harvested 58.4 tonnes of tomatoes. We were grateful to harvest 80% of the crop before a heavy frost took its toll on the remaining tomatoes in the fields.

We have started harvesting tomatoes from our first greenhouse and they are looking great! In our second greenhouse we are planting bell peppers. Our second year apprentices are enjoying gaining experience in growing techniques under intensive conditions.

We completed our first proper potato harvest and we are pleased with the results. The quality of the fruit was very good and our positive results give us confidence to plant more potatoes in the next season.

As well as tomatoes and potatoes, in July we harvested 2,600 bunches of onions.

This month we completed half of the land preparation necessary for August planting.

July was a busy month for our pecan team with over 5,000 seedlings grafted throughout the month.





LIVESTOCK

Our layer team are celebrating July as the first month in a long time where we have not experienced theft! Following an attempted theft and the capture of a culprit on the 1st July, it has been a peaceful and theft-free month for which we are incredibly grateful.



Our layer team have been kept busy in other ways this month, notably with the task of vaccinating the young flock in house 4. That's 18,350 chickens vaccinated one by one!

In total our layers produced 442,691 eggs in July.



July was a turbulent month for the dairy. Cows with infections had to be isolated and yet milked daily. On top of this, the milk chiller stopped working and we were unable to send milk to town for two weeks. A further challenge has been the sudden lack of availability in Zimbabwe of maize bran, one of the main ingredients in our feed.



In all of these challenges, the effort, flexibility and commitment from the dairy team and apprentices has been outstanding. One apprentice has blossomed in her record keeping and milk handling, while another has taken on the responsibility for feeding with determination and a great attitude, even forfeiting their weekend breaks to be at the dairy.