

OCTOBER 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



October was a busy month which lots of fun events, the main one being our Foundation Graduation at the beginning of the month! We celebrated 60 first years completing their 3-month Foundation Course and we are very happy that 59 of them are continuing on to our Intermediate Course!



Another fun event was our graduate reunion. With COVID restrictions, we were able to host a scaled down reunion for graduates local to Ebenezer and it was a special and fun time for all who attended.



Our second years have been studying Ephesians and this has led to some excellent discussions around many topics, one of which was baptism. Following some further teaching, 17 apprentices requested to be baptised and so we were absolutely delighted to be able to baptise them in a special service at the dam held in the middle of the month.



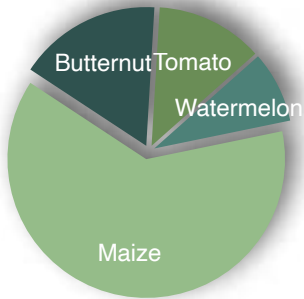
Another highlight of October was our annual Holy Spirit night away as part of the Youth Alpha course we have been running on Family Nights. This is always a significant time for many apprentices as they encounter the Holy Spirit and also have a great night away together at Shalom Campsite!

We welcomed another new arrival to Ebenezer this month - Selma Hayes Amahle, born to Ebenezer team member Brierly and Mackenzie. Selma is doing great and is receiving so much love and care from her older sister, Charlotte!

With fairly frequent marriage courses being offered to our married members of staff, our single staff have been asking for their own programme! So this month they had a great time away fellowshiping, having input, enjoying good food and braving some exciting abseiling together!

CROPPING

24 hectares currently under irrigation



In October we harvested just under 500 kg of tomato and 30 heads of cabbage.

We planted 10 hectares of maize, 1 hectare of butternut, and 1 hectare of watermelon. We were also able to plant 1 hectare of processing tomatoes and 2 hectares of tabletop tomatoes.

The peppers in our green house are looking great and have started flowering and fruiting.

We are finding it hard to sell onions in the Bulawayo markets and instead stored our yield to sell as dry onions at a later date.

We were glad in October to welcome 2 TMG training groups to Ebenezer, to demonstrate our farming methods and offer technical advice to small-scale farmers from across the country.

A new enterprise this month saw us planting vegetable seeds in our pecan nursery!



LIVESTOCK



Our layer houses broke an Ebenezer record in October by producing nearly one million eggs in one month! 969,294 to be exact. This is largely due to the flock in layer house 4 fully coming in to lay and as a result of all of our layer houses exceeding their target lay-rates!



Of a total of 67 cows in our dairy, we had 36 in production in October. We are glad to see that our milk production has improved since August and our cows are now producing an average of 13 litres of milk per cow per day.



We were also glad to have seen our total bacteria count (TBC) and somatic cell count (SCC) drop over the last two months. This a good sign of healthy cows and healthy milk!

In October 6 new calves were born in our dairy, with more on the way.



The layer breeder birds which our apprentices have been helping to grow at Ebenezer are doing really well. The birds are now 17 weeks old and with weights and mortalities on target, we are on track to move these birds into their breeder sites at the end of November. The four apprentices working with these breeders have been doing an excellent job and they are learning a lot!