

SEPTEMBER 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



This month has seen quite a bit of collaboration between Ebenezer Matobo and Ebenezer Kazungula in Zambia, with four members of our staff team visiting the Zambia team! As well as Renée and our Bible trainer Hlu, we were glad to be able to send Mr and Mrs Nyams for a few days. They were a huge blessing to the team there, especially the new Discipleship and Training lead, Peter, who the Nyams spent much time with sharing from their lengthy experience of discipling and caring for apprentices!



A highlight for our second years in September was a marketing trip to Bulawayo. They spent a very full day visiting production, processing and retail sites and enjoyed some input from the Hamara Head of PR and Communications, Clarence Mutangara. This was a hugely beneficial trip for our apprentices, especially following their own practical marketing challenges as part of their Business lessons.



A fun development this month has been the movement of our biogas digesters to our staff houses! This means that our staff team can now cook their meals fuelled by Ebenezer chicken manure!

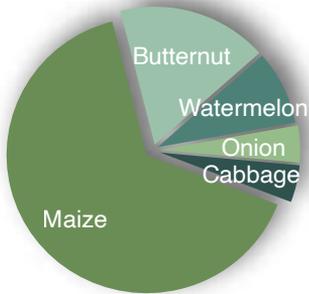


While we have known this day was coming, we were still very sad to say good bye to team member, Pretty Ndlovu in September. Pretty was one of our first Ebenezer graduates back in 2010 and since then has grown massively in her business management and coaching role at Ebenezer. We are excited for Pretty's next steps as she moves to Bulawayo and settles there with her family.

Exciting news in September was the arrival of Samuel Tinashe, the first son of team member Leo Maphosa and his wife Lash. Welcome to the Ebenezer family, Samuel!

CROPPING

23 hectares currently under irrigation



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We were pleased to welcome Knowledge Tshuma on to our cropping team in September. Knowledge joined us last year as an attachment student and since then has graduated with distinction from Esigodini Agricultural College. We are delighted to have him back on the team!
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Another good development this month was seeing our centre pivot moving and watering 6 hectares of land! There are still some adjustments to make for it to be fully efficient but this is a great start. First year apprentices have been busy stumping around the pivot and 80% of the necessary land clearance has been completed.
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September was a busy planting month with 10 hectares of maize and 3 hectares of butternut going into the ground.
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We also harvested 7,550 heads of cabbage, 230 kg of tomato and 1,442 bunches of onions.
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This month we were visited by agronomist Augustine Maseura from EasiSeeds who enjoyed spending time with our cropping team, seeing our fields and advising on seed varieties and chemicals.
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LIVESTOCK

This month our poultry section really enjoyed a visit from Derick Musuka, a Hatchery and Breeder Manager from Heartlands in Zambia. Derrick works closely with Ebenezer Zambia, being involved in Agricultural training and technical input and so it was great to have him at Ebenezer Matobo meeting the team and seeing our set-up both in training and production.



Very good news from our layer section in September was seeing all of our flocks staying above target for the Hyline standards of lay rates. Our biggest flock of just over 18,000 birds in layer house 4 came properly into lay, boosting our total number of eggs produced over the month to 731,018!



Four apprentices have been pioneering a new learning experience at Ebenezer, working with a team to raise breeder birds in our Ebenezer broiler houses. They are having a lot of fun and are really enjoying the experience of learning a lot about vaccinations, debeaking, and counting bigger birds!

With our Dairy team leader on leave, we have seen the rest of our dairy team do an excellent job of stepping up to the challenge of keeping the dairy running! This month 6 calves were born and they are all very healthy.



Milk production has dropped as the dairy team work on establishing an ideal feeding system, but we are pleased that by the end of the month production was seen to be increasing, though slowly. In total we produced 8,184 litres of saleable milk in September.
