

NOVEMBER 2021



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



November has been a hot month as we wait for much needed rains which keep promising but not delivering! Our staff and apprentices have been doing a great job of keeping things energetic and fun in both the classroom and our production areas despite the sweltering heat!



We were grateful for some cooler temperatures towards the end of the month, especially for our annual soccer and netball tournament against other local teams. As well as a fun time of competition and eating together, this event also provides an opportunity to thank our staff team for all the efforts throughout the year and to recognise team members who have gone the extra mile and excelled in their roles.



Three staff team members enjoyed a brief visit to Ebenezer Zambia to join them in celebrating their first ever Graduation! As the first event of its kind for our Zambian team, this was a much anticipated event and a joyful occasion with friends and family congratulating the 20 apprentices who completed their first year!

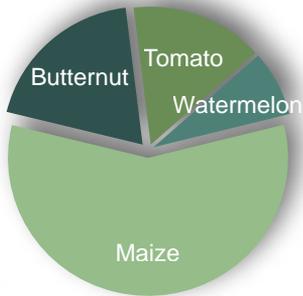
Work has been underway this month to cement our DH floor and it's now looking beautiful! As well as a floor so smooth you could roller skate on it, we have also installed nice cement cupboards which will house our library and cell phone charging station.



Congratulations to team members Tino and Lash who both graduated from university this month. Juggling work and study is no mean feat and we are so proud of their achievements.

CROPPING

26 hectares currently under irrigation



We have started to harvest our watermelons planted back in August. As well as sending the produce to market we are also enjoying eating some on site, a very welcome treat in the scorching temperatures we have been experiencing this month!

This month we planted 5 hectares of maize that is not under irrigation but will be rain fed.

In addition to our maize planting, in November we also planted 3 hectares of butternut, 1 hectare of tomato and 1 hectare of potato.

In November we harvested 95 kg of tomatoes, 1,594 watermelons and 250 bunches of onions which we are storing to sell as dried onions at a later date.

We also started harvesting our greenhouse peppers this month. We have green, red and yellow peppers and the crop is looking great.

A new development in our cropping this month is that we have started growing our own seedlings for our vegetable garden. In time this will mean that all the vegetables we use in our kitchen are grown from seed at Ebenezer!





LIVESTOCK

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This month we said good bye to Dairy Team Leader, Brierly Kuhudzayi and his family. The Kuhudzayis have been with us at Ebenezer for over 2 years and have become very much part of the Ebenezer Family. We are sad to say good bye but also excited to see what God leads them into beyond Ebenezer!

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With Brierly's departure, Dairy Coach Nokuthula will be stepping into the role of Team Lead. Nokuthula has been passionate about dairy farming ever since her time with us as an apprentice in 2016-18 and it has been fantastic to see her grow in her role as a coach since then.

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Our cows produced a total of 7,703 litres of milk in November.

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After a run of excellent lay-rates, we were saddened to have a weekend of no water in our houses and we have been feeling the consequences of that with some mortality and a reduced lay-rate. This is disappointing for our layer team and it will take some time for our lay-rate to return to previous standards.

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In total our layer birds produced 478,899 eggs in November.

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We are excited to get work underway to establish some new broiler houses at Ebenezer which will mean we can place broiler chicks at the start of January!

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