

JANUARY 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

# NEWS



Happy New Year from Ebenezer Matobo! We are excited to be heading into a brand new year, seeing what the Lord has in store for 2022 and safe in the knowledge he will be with us in every challenge we face!



In terms of the weather, 2022 has got off to a great start! Last month we reported on the new local dam which we were waiting to fill - good rains have meant the dam is already full and close to spilling! And the Ebenezer dam which supplies all our irrigation is spilling beautifully.



2022 has also got off to a great start in terms of training, as we started our 3rd block of lessons this month. Everyone is excited to start new topics and we are seeing a lot of enthusiasm amongst our apprentices for all they are learning. Second years are having an especially fun time in their Business lessons as they practically apply what they are learning about Finance to some group SASSO chicken projects where they are growing day-old chicks to market and sell when they reach four weeks.

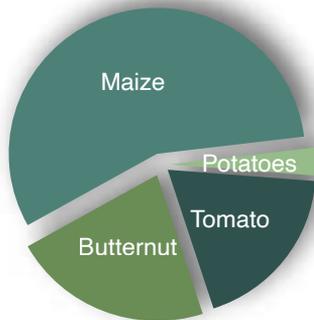


As our second years prepared for their SASSO chicken projects, we had a fantastic week-long workshop with Africa Alive, an initiative working with small scale farmers to grow and market SASSOs. As well as learning lots about growing and marketing birds, the apprentices all got involved in building our first basic SASSO brooder unit.

Two staff members attended an interesting conference this month addressing issues surrounding gender and nutrition. A highlight of the gathering was catching up with 4 Ebenezer graduates who were also attending!

# CROPPING

32 hectares currently under irrigation



In January our cropping teams were kept busy harvesting 22,563 kgs of butternut and 72,732 cobs of maize. As well as that, they harvested 338 kg of green peppers and 83,160 kg of tomato. In January we planted 3 hectares of maize and 1 hectare of tomato.

Our fields continue to look beautifully green with the continuation of good rains. But of course the rains come with challenges and we have been battling with fungal diseases especially in our butternut and tomato crops.



Abundant rains have also meant we are constantly working to keep weeds under control! This is a great learning experience for our apprentices who have been working hard to keep on top of weeding and harvesting!



We have been working to encourage bees into our Ebenezer hives. Not only does this mean honey for us, it also means great pollination for our crops!



# LIVESTOCK

After more than 6 months without broilers on site, in January we were very excited to place 1,043 day old chicks. Second year apprentices are enjoying the practical experience of brooding these chicks and the birds are doing well!



As mentioned, we also placed a small house of 200 SASSO chicks, being overseen by a group of 10 second years. The chicks are pleasingly gaining weight and the apprentices are learning a lot about brooder management such as ensuring the temperature in the house is always right and the birds have constant access to feed!

In our layer houses, this month apprentices had the opportunity to gain lots of experience in vaccinating birds



Our layer teams are also gaining very practical marketing experience in the form of packaging eggs!

In terms of Layer production, layer house 2 produced over target with 155,000 eggs this month while layer house 4 produced 423,379 which was approximately 63,000 eggs under target. This may be a result of a higher mortality than anticipated resulting in less birds producing eggs!



Good news from our dairy is that we are hitting record high yields of milk, both per cow and in total. Our dairy team has been making a concerted effort to get the herd out and grazing every day and this has obviously had a positive impact on our milk production.

In total our cows produced 16,047 litres of saleable milk this month, with quantities per cow per day increasing from 16 litres at the start of the month to 19.7 by month end!