

FEBRUARY 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

# NEWS



A February highlight for our Ebenezer Matobo team was a visit from Moses Phiri, one of our new Ebenezer Zambia Team Leaders! Moses stayed with us for a week and spent time across all areas of Ebenezer, asking great questions and getting to know our staff team.



We are really enjoying deepening our connections with the Ebenezer team in Zambia and in February did not only receive the visit from Moses but also sent 2 of our staff members to Ebenezer Kazungula to help out with their selection of new apprentices! It was a great week and we are excited for their new intake arriving in early March.



This month we welcomed 4 new attachment students to Ebenezer. Patricia Chabata, Michelle Makwikwi, Pride Zibane and Bukhosi Dlamini are all studying at various agricultural institutions across Zimbabwe. We are delighted to have them with us, learning from our various productive areas and growing in their knowledge and skills as they work with us!

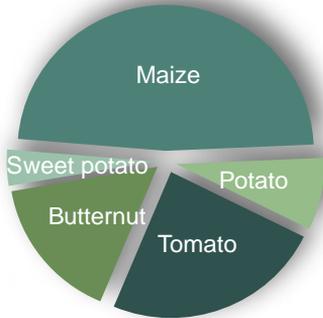


A highlight for our lady apprentices this month was a Ladies fellowship evening held one Saturday night for them to enjoy time away as girls! There was lots of excitement around the evening, with a red, black and white dress code, a feast of a braai, some time spent painting nails and plenty of good chats!

Preselection also continues at a steady pace with staff members heading to locations such as Chivhu and Ratanyane to conduct preselection interviews and to spread the word about Ebenezer!

# CROPPING

12.5 hectares currently under irrigation



In February we harvested 33,978 kgs of butternut, 6,108 cobs of maize and 84,728 kgs of tabletop tomatoes.

We have faced some challenges with water supply this month which affected our spray programs and a number of our cabbage seedlings.

In better news we successfully planted 9 onion seedbeds! We also planted another hectare of maize and half a hectare of sweet potato.

Our kitchen garden and demo plot continues to do well. This month we planted 17 beds of cabbage.

Some of our pecan trees are now bearing good fruit and we are looking forward to harvesting them! In our pecan nursery, the young trees are of good quality and are growing well. They will be ready to market at the end of July.

Apprentices involved in cropping are showing a lot of energy and enthusiasm which is keeping things moving efficiently in our fields!



# LIVESTOCK



Big news in our dairy has been the arrival of a new bull, Braxton (or Pistol as he has been renamed by our apprentices!). We exchanged Braxton for one of our bulls with another local dairy, Anglesey, in order to serve our herds without interbreeding. So far he has proved himself to be a noisy newcomer who is settling in well.



Our dairy milk production continues to do well. This month our number of milking cows increased from 38 to 43 throughout the month. They produced a total of 17,274 litres of saleable milk. The daily production ranged from 14.9 litres to 18.5 litres per cow, with a decent overall average of 17.2 litres per cow per day.



Two more batches of SASSO chicks were placed in February. Second years have been working in groups to brood these batches of 200 birds and they are having fun competing with one another to see who can achieve the best results!

Three second years have been doing a fantastic job with our current batch of broilers. Mortality has been low and while their weights are slightly under target, they are hitting a pleasing FCR (food conversion ratio which measures the efficiency of feed given to weight of bird produced).



A highlight of this batch for the apprentices involved was the opportunity to install a flue pipe heating system, a new experience for them and an efficient heating method for our broiler house.

Our new flocks in layer houses 1 and 3 laid their first eggs at the end of February! In sadder news, we were discouraged to discover 726 birds missing from layer house 4 - this is a big loss which will obviously significantly reduce our egg production.