

APRIL 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



There have been so many highlights this month, it is hard to know where to start! We have hosted some wonderful occasions, one of which was our Parents' Day at which we welcomed many parents of Ebenezer apprentices to visit their children and see first hand what they have been doing and learning! It was an excellent time of not only apprentices reuniting with family, but also having the opportunity to showcase what they have learnt, how they have grown and to demonstrate the new skills they have attained.



Another great occasion was the wedding of Ebenezer graduates and staff team members, Simanga and Fortune. We were delighted to host the event at Ebenezer itself and our apprentices loved being part of the proceedings, especially the dancing processions!



Easter was also a fun occasion at Ebenezer. With apprentices taking it in turns to take some holiday during our two boost weeks, those remaining onsite over Easter enjoyed celebrating together and eating a lot of meat!

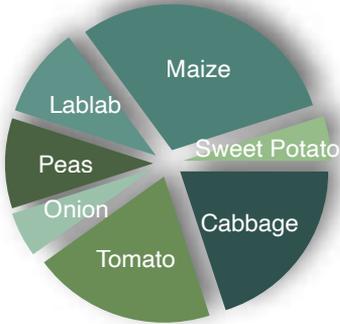
Family Nights continued to be special times as we closed our series on Walking with Jesus Everyday. Apprentices really appreciated hearing from different visiting speakers on their real life experiences of walking with Jesus through circumstances such as grief, temptation and challenging relationships.



Last month we told you about some wonderful instruments we received. This month we were blessed with a set of speakers! We have been enjoying the combination of the two with some lively parties and an excellent family night dance competition!

CROPPING

10 hectares currently under irrigation



We appreciated a visit from our pecan consultant Mr Wenham this month. He congratulated our Pecan Team on a job well done in our pecan nursery where we have 3,000 grafted saplings of different varieties which will be ready for lifting and selling later this year.

In April we planted a hectare each of sugar snap peas, cabbage and sorghum. We also transplanted half a hectare of onion.

This month we harvested 13,303 kgs of butternut, 404 heads of cabbage, 606 kgs of potatoes and 4,480 kgs of tomatoes.

Our tomato crop has continued to be heavily affected by tuta absoluta which has led to a decline in our yield. Our younger tomato plants have also suffered a shortage of potassium nitrate which will affect the crop's flower and fruit development.

We continue to enjoy the benefits of having greenhouses on site which enable us to plant into the winter months. We currently have 600 green pepper plants in one of our green houses and the crop is doing well.



LIVESTOCK



In the midst of feed challenges this month, the Dairy team has shown grit and purpose as they have improvised to make sure our cows are eating. Over the month we have seen a positive increase in milk production from 8 to 12 litres of milk per cow per day.



First year apprentice Makhosazana has shown a particular love for dairy record keeping! She has been working hard on her computer literacy in order to further improve her record keeping skills and accuracy.

We have had an issue of bloating in a few of our cows. Farm manager Andrew has been dealing with those cows affected and while this is not great for our herd, it has provided another practical learning experience for our apprentices!



This month the broiler breeders we have been raising reached the age where we could move them to their new home on a neighbouring farm. Apprentices have enjoyed getting the unique experience of raising broiler breeders but are also excited about farming broilers again.

Our current batch of broilers are continuing to grow well. Mortality is at 2.3% and our 3 second year apprentices farming the birds have exhibited excellent team work and communication.



As birds in layer houses 1 and 3 come into lay, their lay-rates are continuing to increase. Layer house 4, with our biggest flock, has faced ongoing challenges with manure removal belts. The Layer team has had to pull together to overcome this challenge. It has however lead to a drop in production. In total our layer birds produced 561,400 eggs in April.
