

MARCH 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



March has been a good month at Ebenezer Matobo. We have enjoyed some refreshing and unexpected late rains, our apprentices have continued to be upbeat and enthusiastic, and we have had some wonderful times together as the Ebenezer community!



March sees us close our third training block of the year. It has been a long one and our apprentices are ready for a brain break as they head into Boost Weeks where we focus our efforts on production. Lessons have been a lot of fun this block - in Communication classes apprentices have been learning what it means to live well as community and the role each of us can play in that; they've also been learning how to write the perfect CV which will be an important skill for those graduating in just a few weeks time!



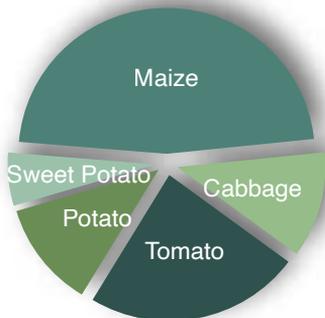
Our Family Nights have also been a lot of fun this block. As well as enjoying times of good food and fellowship together we have had some excellent speakers from outside of Ebenezer come and share with us what it means to them to walk with Jesus everyday. Covering topics as broad as temptation, grief, relationships and money, it has been encouraging and challenging to hear people's own experiences and testimonies of their faith being alive in everyday life.



We were blessed this month to receive a visit from Tendai, the son of Mr and Mrs Nyams. Tendai runs a company in South Africa tutoring kids and young people in music and he spent some time encouraging some of our apprentices in their musical skills. Not only that but he gifted Ebenezer a keyboard and guitar! We are so grateful and have already been enjoying using them in our Family Nights.

CROPPING

12.5 hectares currently under irrigation



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This month we finished our Butternut crop with 24,067kgs harvested in March. We also harvested 21,980kgs of dry maize and 66,184 kgs of tomato.
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We have been cropping a smaller amount of peppers in our green houses and in March harvested 132 kg.
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March saw us planting 1 ¼ hectares of tabletop tomato.
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We have faced a big challenge this month with tuta absoluta which has affected our tomato crop and reduced our yield. We are working hard to control the spread of the insect using traps.
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One hectare of maize was silaged in March; this continues a good partnership between our cropping section and our dairy who will be using the silage to feed our cows.
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Apprentices have continued to show great enthusiasm and energy in their field work and are currently setting to work to prepare land for the next season.
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LIVESTOCK

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We have started to cull our oldest current layer flock from layer house 2 which are 80 weeks old. This batch has done well by maintaining a lay-rate above target by an average of 5%, even though they started laying late.

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In total our layers produced 499,084 eggs in March. This number should increase as our young flocks in layer houses 1 and 3 begin to hit higher lay-rates.

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Our second years have been brooding SASSO chicks in groups as part of a challenge related to their Business lessons. They did a fantastic job of growing the birds and then gained some excellent real life experience in the difficulties of marketing your birds! They were very relieved to find some customers this month!

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We completed one batch of broilers in March and were pleased with the results our apprentices achieved. By the end of the batch the average live weight was 2.2 kg per bird and we hit an FCR of 1.88.

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Later in the month our second years placed another batch of 1,000 broilers. So far they are doing well and maintaining low mortalities.

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Our dairy produced a total of 18,900 litres of milk this month, 12,672 litres of which was sent to Dairy Board - so if you live in Zimbabwe you know which brand to choose at the supermarket if you want to taste Ebenezer milk!

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In gutting Dairy news, we lost 8 milking cows this month due to an unknown disease.

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