

AUGUST 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

# NEWS



A big August highlight for our second years was the annual Marketing Trip into Bulawayo. With visits to various suppliers, processors and retail outlets this was an eye-opening experience for the advanced apprentices who have recently completed an in-depth marketing module. A particular highlight of the trip was a visit to a feed mill where they gained a greater understanding of the journey some crops take from field to distributor to processor and finally to a retail outlet! They also enjoyed comparing different markets, from the street vendors in the centre of town to the high end supermarkets of the suburbs. They have returned to Ebenezer with lots of insight into marketing challenges and they are already having innovative ideas about how to overcome these challenges in their own future enterprises as Ebenezer graduates.

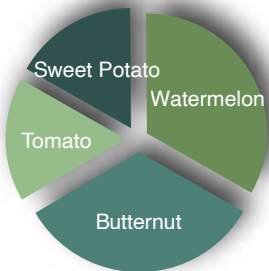
Another fun expedition this month was the opportunity for 10 of our apprentices to participate in the WAGES (We Are God's Eager Servants) weekend, a Christian Arts programme designed to spread the gospel in a fun way for young adults. The Imvuselelo ("Revival") team from Ebenezer thoroughly enjoyed 2 days of drama, music, sport and bible quizzes, as well as mingling with people their own age and sharing ideas. To top off a great experience, they also came away with the overall WAGES trophy for excellence in all areas!

We have welcomed two more attachment students to join our team for the next few months. Arnold and Nkosilathi are both studying at Esigodini Agricultural College and we are delighted to have them with us.

Sadly, as we welcomed one Nkosilathi, we said good bye to another. Once an Ebenezer apprentice, Nkosilathi Dube has been on our staff team since 2019. We are going to miss Nkosi a lot at Ebenezer but we are excited for his next venture, running his own carpentry enterprise!

# PRODUCTION

3 hectares under irrigation



Our cropping team continues to prepare land and plant as we near summer. We have planted half a hectare of tomato, and one hectare each of butternut and watermelon. We are pleased to see the butternut and watermelon seeds germinating despite some challenges with water.

Our pecan team have done an excellent job this month, selling 417 saplings from our nursery and working to graft another 1,000 trees which will be ready for sale in 2023!

Three second years were excited this month to place their first batch of broilers - 10,130 chicks to be exact. On the whole the batch has done well through the two week brooding phase, although some struggles to keep the house warm enough at night has led to a few mortalities.

Layer production has continued to improve this month. Our flock in layer house 4 has even been exceeding international lay-rate targets on some days! In total our layers produced 535,142 eggs in August.

Good news from our dairy is that milk production is increasing slowly and apprentices have been working enthusiastically. In sad news, however, we have been struck by a disease which so far has killed 11 cows. We are working hard to diagnose the cause and treat accordingly. Our dairy produced 7,420 litres of saleable milk in August.

