

OCTOBER 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



There was much celebration at the beginning of October as our 60 first years graduated from the 3-month Foundation Course. We combined their graduation with a Parents' Day and so there was a lot of happy reunions as parents congratulated their children on their success, caught up on family news and had the opportunity to find out more about what the first years have been getting up to over the past 3 months! We are especially grateful this year that every new apprentice who joined us in July has completed the Foundation Course!



After a very short break following graduation, our second block of training has kicked off this month. First years are being introduced to the 5 Pillars of Agriculture and the 5 Pillars of Business, while second years are getting stuck into a new Bible series focused on Family and Healthy Habits, as well as some Business lessons focused on record keeping. As part of this they are especially enjoying some practical record-keeping challenges based around baking cakes!



More cause for celebration in October was the baptism of 22 apprentices at the beginning of the month! It was fantastic to see these youngsters take this important step in their faith and we are so encouraged as we see them deepen their relationship with Jesus.

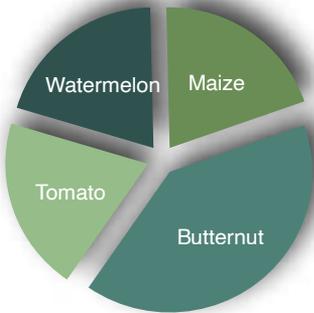


Congratulations to our apprentice netball team who have been excelling in recent tournament matches! Their latest win (15-6!) has resulted in them ranking third of all teams participating in the current tournament! Special congratulations to apprentice Beulla Moyo who was awarded a water jug as the second best player in the tournament!

Having finished Youth Alpha, we have started a new Family Night series this month focused on the book of Philippians.

PRODUCTION

8 hectares under irrigation



It has been another hectic month for our layer team as they received an unexpected 7,000 birds whilst already in the process of moving other birds! Apprentices and coaches have shown a great attitude in dealing with such challenges. In total our layers produced 699,597 eggs this month.

We were sad to have one stillborn calf in our dairy this month. But in more positive news, our milk production has been very good and our overall dairy health is much improved on previous months.

We are really pleased with the broiler batch we finished in October. The birds achieved an average live weight of 2.25 kg and mortality was not too bad at 5.8%. With an overall FCR (food conversion ratio) of 1.85, the apprentices who were farming this batch can be pleased with their results and we're happy to report that they made a profit!

October has been a good month for our cropping team as we have managed to get our centre pivot functioning after some delays. We have planted 2 hectares of maize under the pivot. In addition, we have planted 1 hectare of butternut and 1 hectare of tomato seedlings.