

MARCH 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



March has been a busy month for our staff team processing applications for our course starting in July. With the application deadline falling at the end of this month, we are delighted to have received over 200 applications! We have been running preselection interviews with candidates across Matabeleland and beyond, with members of our team travelling as far as Ngundu and Chivi to meet applicants.



March also saw us draw our current training block to a close before we take some time over Easter to focus on production and give some of our apprentices a chance to visit home. We enjoyed some fun Easter challenges towards the end of the block. As well as a music video competition between families, we also undertook a challenge in our families to find creative ways to bless other families at Ebenezer. This saw us cooking scones for each other, praying for one another and even giving physical gifts!



A particularly fun Easter challenge involved us completing a photo competition whilst walking down to the dam tied together in our families! Once at the dam we enjoyed an evening meal and a bonfire together with lots of singing, dancing and games.

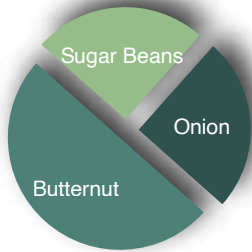
We were sad this month to bid farewell to Nokuthula, an Ebenezer graduate who has been managing our dairy since 2019. Nokuthula has gone to work at a dairy in Nkayi with over 70 Friesland dairy animals. She is looking forward to gaining experience with a different breed and in a new setting, and we know she will do a great job!



With Nokuthula on her way, we were happy to welcome another Ebenezer graduate, Mxolisi Ncube, onto our dairy team. Mxolisi has been working at a dairy near Fort Rixon and so we are looking forward to benefiting from his experience there as he takes on the management of our dairy with fellow graduate and staff member, Nkanyiso.

PRODUCTION

4 hectares under irrigation



In March we planted 1 hectare of onion seedlings, which are doing well. As well as this planting, we harvested 7,652 kg of green house tomatoes.

We have also been experimenting with smaller vegetable crops and we were pleased to find a market for 80 bunches of leeks. We are seeing there is a market for other vegetables we don't normally produce and so we look forward to exploring this avenue further. We have planted green peppers in our kitchen garden and hope some will also sell in town.

Apprentices have been doing an excellent job managing a hectare crop of sugar beans which we are growing for our own consumption. The crop looks beautiful and we are anticipating an excellent yield!

We have been advertising some of our dairy herd and we are glad to have secured sales of some of our heifers. This releases capital to reinvest into our production.

In total our dairy produced 15,675 litres of saleable milk in March, an average of 13.3 litres per cow per day.

We have continued to experience theft in our layer houses which has been discouraging. In total our layers produced 396,952 eggs in March

