

NOVEMBER 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



We were thrilled that 26 apprentices chose to be baptised at the beginning of November. We held the baptisms in the local dam and then followed the occasion with a celebratory service of thanksgiving joined by many local church leaders.



Worlds collided in a beautiful way this month with a first for Ebenezer - we found the team leaders of each of our Ebenezer centres on site at Ebenezer Matobo! With Alberto from Mozambique, Kasongo from Zambia and Renée from Zimbabwe, we had a short but fruitful time of connecting, encouraging one another and sharing insights from across the different Ebenezer sites.



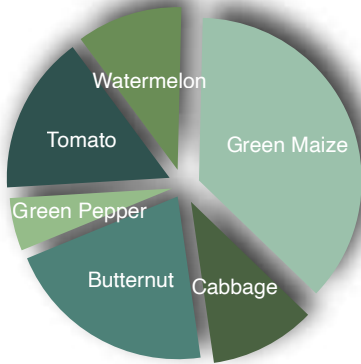
We have seen a lot of enthusiasm in our second year Bible classes where apprentices have been focusing on Family and Healthy Habits (Spiritual Disciplines). We have been enjoying some excellent small group discussions, as well as visits from outside speakers, sharing from their own experience on topics such as "Singleness", "Dealing with my past and forgiveness" and "Family expectations, culture and me." As we near the end of the training block, apprentices are now working in groups to prepare presentations to the rest of their classmates on family topics of their choice.



This month two of our Ebenezer staff team attended the Global Leadership Summit, an international event hosted by the Global Leadership Network which partners with local churches and organisations to broadcast a 2-day leadership conference to hundreds of satellite locations around the world. Smellie and Denmore joined others in Bulawayo to enjoy seminars and talks from global Christian leaders, as well as impactful small group discussions around many leadership issues.

CROPPING

19 hectares under irrigation



November has been a very busy month for our cropping teams as summer harvesting has begun in earnest. With our tomatoes ripening quicker than we could pick them, the whole Ebenezer family came together to help with the tomato harvest this month. It is fantastic to see our fields producing such a good harvest and we anticipate more of the same in the weeks to come.

In total in November we harvested 58,330 kg of tomato and 1,354 heads of cabbage. We have also begun our watermelon harvest with a first fruits picking of 431 melons.

Our other tomato crops are looking very promising and cropping teams have been busy trellising them this month. We also have green pepper in the ground and butternut, both of which are growing beautifully.

We appreciated another visit from our Koppert consultant, Marcel, this month. Marcel is helping us to implement a biological integrated pest management programme. As well as advising our cropping coaches, he has been hosting some useful and informative teaching sessions with our apprentices.



LIVESTOCK



We achieved some fantastic results with our latest batch of broilers closed in November. With excellent management from our broiler team, the birds reached a weight of 2.03 kg in only 38 days, an FCR of 1.76 and a very low mortality of 2.1%. In total 19,682 kgs of meat was produced. The apprentices farming this batch are over the moon with their results. They have enjoyed this experience and say they have learnt a lot about doing small things in a great way!



Our layer birds continue to perform well, with an average lay-rate of 84% and low mortality, despite the very high temperatures we have been experiencing this month.



Our dairy has seen pleasing results in November. With a concerted effort to improve cow health, we have been treating our cows with high somatic cell count, as the milk produced by these cows cannot be sold to our processor. As a result of treatment, the somatic cell count has dropped and we are now able to sell higher quantities of milk to Dairibord, a national processor and our main customer.



We have also seen our average milk production increase this month. By the third week of November our cows were producing an average of 18.5 litres of milk per cow per day, a 3 litre increase per cow on the previous month.

In other good dairy news, 6 new calves were born in November.
