

APRIL 2024



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

NEWS



April 23rd and 24th were busy days for Ebenezer Kazungula as we welcomed candidates for our upcoming course to join us for two Selection Days. With help from a team of colleagues from Ebenezer Zimbabwe, we gave the applicants a proper Ebenezer experience, with slashing, manure bagging and broiler house cleaning activities! We also took time to get to know and interview each applicant and had some fun playing team building games and sending everyone for a 3 km run! Of those who came, we have offered places to 21 new apprentices who we hope will be joining us in June.



As mentioned, we had a team from Ebenezer Matobo come and join us for our Selection process. It was a lot of fun connecting with them and we appreciated their experience when it came to selection activities. For some of them it was their first visit to Zambia. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet our team and apprentices, catch up with previous team leader Moses Phiri and family, and also to visit the Victoria Falls for their first time!



We also appreciated the input of our second year apprentices who threw themselves into the Selection Days, getting to know applicants and making them feel at home.



A very sad occurrence this month was the burning down of our entire store of bedding grass which we had been working very hard to collect over the previous few months. A fire started by a security guard got out of control and we were unable to salvage anything from the remains.

In better news, we have been seeing our orange trees come into blossom for the first time. These fruit trees were planted by our first graduates back in 2022, so they are significant to us and we are looking forward to tasting their fruits!

PRODUCTION

Second year apprentices, Carol and Theresa, placed 4,549 chicks together this month. By the end of the month the batch was 2 weeks old with a 2% mortality. The birds are slightly underweight, so the apprentices and their coaches are pushing to see their feed intake increase and their target weights reached.

With this new batch, Theresa and Carol are getting the opportunity to try a new water system with the birds drinking from automated nipple drinkers alongside the manual drinkers. This should mean a good steady delivery of water to the birds with less labour required filling drinkers.

Our layer birds have reached 50 weeks of age and are achieving a pleasing lay-rate of 91%.

Work is now underway to start building our second thatched layer barn. Just like our existing house, the barn will be built in a traditional thatched style but with automated manure belts which will make managing the house less labour-intensive. Building materials are being organised, but we are finding it difficult to source thatching grass because of the drought this year.

The drought has continued to challenge our crops, but we did harvest our maize and we are still hopeful our sunflowers will produce a good harvest of seeds.

