



# EBENEZER MATOBO

This month we welcomed 56 new first year apprentices at Ebenezer! They joined us on 14<sup>th</sup> July for a fun Orientation Week in which they were introduced to the Ebenezer community, culture and routine. Having settled them in, we then wasted no time getting them into the swing of early mornings, lots of hard work in their Productive Learning Areas, and some mindset transformation in their lessons!

With the start of our new Ebenezer year, we have also started our annual Family Night Youth Alpha series. Our second year apprentices are taking an active role in leading and facilitating this series, with some support from staff. These are always fun evenings, filled with games, good food and engrossing discussions!

With our recent graduates just one month into life beyond Ebenezer, we have been very intentional about following up with them, finding out how they are getting on, what work opportunities they have secured and whether they are managing to plug into a good local church community. Please pray for these young people as they adjust to new situations and communities.

At the start of July, we had the pleasure of welcoming our local friend Sarah Gerhart for a day of staff training focused on discipleship and coaching. It was a valuable opportunity to step back from our usual routines, revisit past training content, and dive deeper into both our understanding and practical application. The time together not only sharpened our skills but also strengthened our sense of shared purpose as a team.



# CROPPING

Our cropping focus this month has been on preparing land for our August planting. Apprentices and coaches have been busy clearing fields, checking irrigation equipment and preparing seed beds and planting stations.

Currently in the ground we have 1 hectare each of onion, watermelon, tomato and sugar beans.

We have begun to harvest our onion, with 3,750 bunches harvested in July. This month we also harvested our sugar bean crop. We will be keeping these yields for our own consumption.

There has been major work underway on our solar pump and we are looking forward to it being fully functioning in the coming weeks.

We have been seeing our first considerable harvests from our pecan trees, with 50 kg harvested this month. We are enjoying our first real pecan sales begin to happen.

In the coming season, we are looking forward to continuing our partnership with Avanos seed. As well as continuing our production of butternut seed, we will also be trialling watermelon, tomato and cucumber seed. We are delighted to have feedback from Avanos that the green pepper we are growing for seed are some of the best plants they have seen!





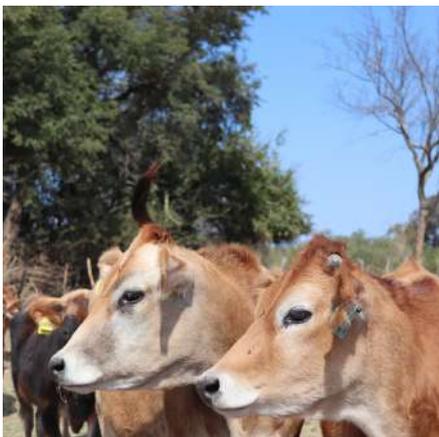
# LIVESTOCK

We saw significant progress in our broilers section this month, with our team successfully combating and curing a persistent respiratory infection that, earlier in the cycle, was causing a rise in daily mortalities. As a result, our performance indicators have shown remarkable improvement, with birds reaching an average weight of 2.7kg in 6 weeks and 3.2kg at 7 weeks! Mortality rates have remained below target, contributing to good overall productivity and efficiency in this batch. These achievements are a testament to the hard work of the entire broiler production team.

In our layer section, our lay rates have remained between 85–91% across houses 1–3. There have been some dips in production due to a bacterial infection and worms, and we have been working hard to treat the affected birds as quickly as possible.

Last month we told you about our Lohmann birds which we are farming in partnership with Lohmann as part of a trial to see which line grows best in our environment. In July these birds began to lay and by the end of the month they were at an 18% lay rate.

Two calves were born into our dairy this month, one male and one female.





# INTRODUCING...

My name is Siphwe Nyoni and I have just started my second year at Ebenezer. I am 22 years old and come from Ntabazinduna, about 30 km north of Bulawayo.

I completed my O levels in 2020, achieving certificates in English and Ndebele. Following that, I was staying at home with my parents and younger brother. My parents do not have work and we were supporting ourselves through subsistence farming. It was my grandmother who told me about Ebenezer. I had secured work as a housemaid, but I felt like I am nothing without a piece of paper (qualifications). Ebenezer seemed to provide a good opportunity to improve myself, gain some skills, make my life better and change my home environment.

It has been exciting to experience life away from home. Throughout first year I have learned a lot about agriculture, but also about many other things in life, such as setting boundaries and living well with others. I found the diet challenging to start with, but I have adjusted. What I like about Ebenezer is that it is not boring! Living with others, knowing them better – I have enjoyed getting to know many different personalities.

My biggest achievement in first year was proving to myself that I can do this – I have graduated from the intermediate course and improved my skills, especially in business. I am aware of greater pressure as I start second year, with more responsibilities and projects to undertake, but I am confident I will make it.

My longterm hope is to use the skills I've gained, either in employment or by setting up a chicken house and farm project at home. I want my family to be proud of me and I want to be able to support them and change our home for the better.

JULY 2025

