



EBENEZER MATOBO

Happy New Year from Ebenezer Matobo! We have enjoyed an excellent Christmas and New Year Season, with some big rains, bumper crops, and lots of festive fun. On Christmas Day itself we had over 60 apprentices on site and so our celebrations felt BIG. We started the day with a breakfast feast, followed by a DIY-Nativity, lots of games and more feasting. In the afternoon we shared gifts and played games and took about a million selfies in our Christmas gear. There was more good food in the evening, as well as time to hang out, dance and watch a Christmas movie. While some of us may have missed our homes and our families, there was truly a fantastic family atmosphere at Ebenezer and an abundance of joy, laughter and fun!

The end of 2025 was beautifully marked with a Crossover Combined Service for local churches Bethel, Crossroads and New Life For All. The time together incorporated uplifting worship, thanksgiving for the year passed, and an invitation for the Holy Spirit to lead us as we serve our wider community in 2026.

The end of the year brought with it the end of our second training block of the year. Taking a break from lessons at this time of year is essential in order for us to focus on harvesting in one of our busiest production periods. It also provides an opportunity for each apprentice to visit home for a few days and an opportunity for some staff to take some much-welcome leave. As a result, we hope to enter 2026 with refreshed energy and joy.

NEWS DECEMBER 2025



CROPPING

December has been a very busy month for our cropping team, with abundant yields leading to hectic harvesting schedules and late-night truck-loading to ensure our produce reached the market while still fresh. Heavy rains have also challenged us to keep on top of our weeding!

In total this month, we harvested 112,452 kg of processing tomato, 5,068 heads of watermelon and 30,668 kg of butternut. There has been excellent demand for our product in the market.

We have also been busy starting our seed extraction for those crops we are growing in partnership with Avanos Seeds. So far, we have extracted about 150 kg of cucumber seeds and 150 kg of watermelon seeds! With heavy and consistent rains this month, it has been challenging to dry seeds and not have them rot in the fields.

December was a quieter planting month, with just 1 hectare of maize being planted.

Crops currently in the ground are 6 ha of butternut, 3 ha of watermelon, 4.5 ha of tomato and 11 ha of maize.





LIVESTOCK

We have seen ongoing improvements in our dairy over the month of December, with 24 cows in milk and our average milk yield per cow increasing. We also hit our target of selling 95% of the milk we produced. This month saw us planting more dairy pastures, which will provide nutritious feed for our cows in the months to come.

Good news from our layer houses this month is the decrease in mortality that we have seen across each flock. We are particularly pleased with this trend in Layer House 3, where we are seeing a reduction from 12 mortalities a day to just 1! As well as this, we are seeing excellent lay-rates, exceeding our targets in some houses. This is a fantastic way to end the year and we are confident of these improvements continuing into Q1 of 2026.

We are seeing a pleasing increase in the price of eggs in the market, after a dip before Christmas. This is encouraging for our layer section and for our business as a whole!

Of our current batch of broilers, we sent half to market before Christmas, and remained with half of the batch into the new year. We are hoping for positive results from this batch later in January.





INTRODUCING...

My name is Takunda Mauchi and I am a first year apprentice. I am 20 years-old and I come from Bindura, in Mashonaland, where I live with my mum, dad, twin brother and younger sister. Before coming to Ebenezer I was studying Diesel Plant Treating at Kwekwe Polytechnic, however I was struggling with the Physics and Mechanics required and so I was asking myself, "what should I do?"

Then an uncle told me about Ebenezer and the opportunity there to learn more about agriculture. The other option I was considering was training as a chef, but since my family has some land on which we have been starting many farming enterprises, such as fish and crops, I thought, "let me try Ebenezer."

In the first 3 months at Ebenezer, I discovered that I would like to become a specialist in growing tomatoes. In Bindura many people grow cotton and tobacco, but not tomato. People pay high prices for tomatoes which are transported from the capital, yet the land is good for this crop. I have therefore focused as much as possible on gaining knowledge about growing tomato, as well as other crops which can thrive in my area.

With the training I am gaining, I would like to make positive changes in my community, being known as a specialist who can not only grow these crops but train others to do the same. I also want to do something in the House of God, getting more involved and finding my role there. My church is going to see a change in me from my time at Ebenezer; I have gone deeper in my relationship with God and found a new passion for God's word and prayer. Every aspect of life is there in the Bible and being at Ebenezer has pushed me to know God's word better. I can't say "I know God fully" but I am on a journey, learning and seeing new things every day.

Ebenezer is a good place to have a relationship with God. I have found a group of friends who like God and who love me and I have grown enormously in my faith and confidence.

