



EBENEZER MATOBO

Our staff team concluded our discipleship workshops this month, facilitated by Sarah Gerhart. Three morning workshops focused on our position and authority in Christ and the Father heart of God. These were fruitful times of connecting with God and with one another. Importantly, Sarah also spent time with our team of transformers (those who conduct classroom training), discussing how they could adapt and contextualise these workshops for our apprentices. We are excited to develop these ideas in the coming weeks.

In April we said good bye to farm manager, Kyle, and welcomed a new manager, Dean Brannigan. Dean brings with him over 26 years of production experience in dairy, cropping and poultry. His interest in farming variety suits us well at Ebenezer, and we are looking forward to working with him and learning from him.

Congratulations to our Imvuselelo team who once more competed in the Sethule Trust WAGES (We Are God's Eager Servants) camp. Over 4 days, this team participated in quizzes and presentations focused on poetry, the Bible and drama. We are proud of them for winning back the Bible quiz trophy!

We enjoyed having a team from the Base Church in Bulawayo with us over the Easter weekend. This lively and enthusiastic bunch brought an atmosphere of fun over the long weekend, as well as providing some good Easter thoughts for us to reflect on.



CROPPING

Unseasonal rains in April gave us an ongoing challenge with many of our crops. In particular, we battled fungal diseases, which we have been working hard to keep at bay.

We started to harvest some crops this month. Our tomatoes are looking magnificent and receiving an excellent price at the market. We are endeavouring to send as much produce to market as possible before the risk of frost attacking us.

Crops currently in the ground are 4 hectares of butternut, 3 hectares of sugar beans, 2.5 hectares of tomato, 2 hectares of watermelon, 1.5 hectares of maize and 1.2 hectares of cabbage. We also have half a hectare of onion but this crop has struggled considerably because of the unexpected rains over the past weeks.





LIVESTOCK

Good news in our dairy this month was that we received two female calves in April. Bad news is that we lost 3 adult cows to disease and struggled with high cases of mastitis. Our team are milking by hand to reduce the risk of milk contamination, a time-consuming laborious task.

A batch of 12,046 broiler chicks was placed at the beginning of April. The flock has performed steadily throughout the cycle, with encouraging improvements in uniformity and overall growth consistency as the birds matured. Mortality levels and the Food Conversion Ratio (FCR) remained favourable, reflecting strong day-to-day management and care. While there is still room to improve performance in future batches, overall this flock has tracked well and provides a positive foundation on which our current broiler team can continue to build.

Our layer houses achieved generally positive lay rates this month. Our aged flock in Layer House 1 is still smashing targets, hitting an average of 79% against a target of 72%. Houses 2 and 3 were slightly below target, with lay rates sitting at 2-3% below target. Layer House 4 has been achieving a lay rate of 88% against a target of 87%, despite challenges we are facing with manure belts.

At the end of April, we were saddened by some egg thefts from our layer houses. Our security team is investigating and we are increasing our security presence in the houses as a result.





COUNT DOWN...

This month saw us hit the 50-day countdown to graduation! Second year apprentice, Sibongumusa Ndlovu, reflects on this significant milestone...

We've come so far. When I look back, the road behind us is long and marked with sacrifice. Every blister, every early morning, every quiet prayer – it's all there, written into the distance we've already covered. And now, our final destination is finally within reach. I can almost touch it.

Our hearts are pounding, not just from exhaustion, but from hope. Our chests rise and fall with the weight of everything we've carried to get here. The sweat on our skin isn't just from effort – it's the story of our commitment, of nights we've refused to quit, of days we chose each other over comfort.

Yes, our bodies are tired. Our muscles are crying out. Some days it feels like we have nothing left to give. But this is not the time to break. This is the time to believe. This is the moment we were made for. We must push forward, because the finish line holds more than a result, it holds the proof that our struggle meant something.

And we cannot do it alone. In these final 50 days, we need each other more than ever. We need your voice when one of us grows silent. We need your hand when a brother stumbles. We need your strength when a sister's knees give in. Scripture tells us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Our elders knew this truth long before us: Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu. I am because we are. Your fight is my fight. Your weariness is mine to carry too. And your victory will be our victory.

So take a deep breath with me. Lift your head. We didn't come this far to stop now. Let's finish this not as individuals, but as one. Together. For each other. All the way to the end.

APRIL 2026

