

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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Oklahoma Agriculture Department

brings holiday joy to students at F. D. Moon Academy

Students at F. D. Moon Academy in Oklahoma City were already excited about Christmas break when a special surprise came to their elementary school thanks to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF).

A cold December morning was filled with joyful squeals of delight as the giant Clydesdale horse from Express Ranches, Blazer, stomped out of his trailer and lifted his huge head to the sky. Doug Sauter talked softly around Blazer and two miniature horses as Sauter told the children about how to approach a horse safely and pet its nose.

Before the outside activities, students and teachers warmed up and enjoyed a breakfast snack donated by ODAFF directors, the State Board of Agriculture and the Oklahoma Wheat Commission. Sticky fingers eagerly grabbed donuts and washed them down with hot chocolate to get fueled for the last day of school.

Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture members assisted ODAFF's Ag in the Classroom coordinators as they taught agriculture lessons from the award-winning preK-12 curriculum. Students tried their hands at milking Betsie the Cow, a large wooden cow-shaped cutout with a balloon udder. Coordinators also talked about milk and all the good things made from milk.

Best of all was the sound of reindeer hooves on the school playground. Two of Santa's reindeer found their way to Oklahoma and amazed the children with giant antlers and thick, soft fur. Prancer posed for photos with Santa and students from each class. Although the reindeer didn't fly around the school they delighted the students as part of the special happy holiday wishes from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

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Photo captions:

Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese poses with Santa and students from F. D. Moon Academy in Oklahoma City during a visit with Prancer the reindeer.



State Board of Agriculture member Ed Hurliman serves donuts to students at F. D. Moon Academy during a special Christmas visit from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.



Santa delights students at F. D. Moon Academy on the last day of school before Christmas break.

