



COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
EMERGENCY ORDER
2023-CHRISTMAS

WHEREAS, the Free State of Florida – *hereby known as the Free State of Christmas* – and Mr. Santa Claus of the North Pole share a deep and steadfast relationship; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recognizes Mr. Santa Claus’ important mission of spreading holiday cheer; and

WHEREAS, on December 24, 2023, children in all 67 counties across Florida will go to sleep with hopes that St. Nicholas soon will be there; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Santa Claus has demonstrated a pattern of immense care for his nine (9) faithful reindeer over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Claus holds a special place in the hearts of Floridians, both young and old. His impact transcends the boundaries of age, bringing joy, hope, and wonderment to all; and

WHEREAS, for the children of Florida, Santa represents the embodiment of kindness and generosity. Through Santa, children learn the joy of giving and the beauty of believing in the unseen; and

WHEREAS, even for the older generations, Santa’s enduring presence serves as a reminder of the simple joys and boundless possibilities that come with the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and its more than 4,000 dedicated public servants wish Floridians a happy and healthy Christmas.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution, and for the benefit of all good girls and boys across Florida, I hereby declare the following:

1. The requirements related to certificates of animal movement in the state pursuant to Chapter 585.08, Florida Statutes, is waived for Mr. Claus and his nine (9) flying reindeer.
2. Mr. Claus is authorized to bypass any of the 23 agricultural inspection stations in Florida.



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3. Weight and size restrictions for loads on magical flying sleighs transporting services, presents for Florida's good children, agricultural commodities, citrus, and any goods Mr. Claus may need during his time in Florida is waived.
4. The department's Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, directed by Colonel Lee "Jingle Bells" Adams Jr., stands ready to assist Mr. Claus in any way necessary to make his visit to Florida a memorable and joyous one.
5. The Florida Forest Service, a division of the department that manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests, welcomes Mr. Claus and his reindeer to any Florida State Forest and any fees or reservation requirements is waived.
6. Floridians are encouraged to leave Fresh From Florida treats out for Mr. Claus and his reindeer on Christmas Eve (December 24) to provide nourishment for their long journey.

THIS ORDER first entered on December 22, 2023, as Emergency Order 2023-CHRISTMAS, is hereby extended through sunrise on December 25, 2023, unless extended or rescinded by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

EXECUTED DECEMBER 22, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wilton Simpson", is written over a horizontal line.

WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
Signed under the advisement of Addy and Emy Monbarren