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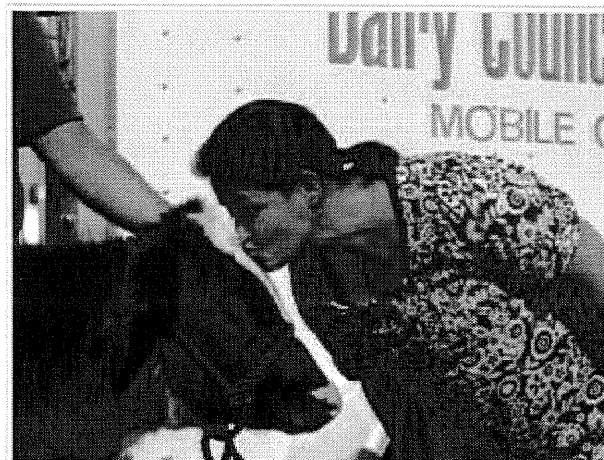
Cow and calf at Cram

By Paula Kasprzyk, Reporter, Highland Community News

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At Tuesday's assembly, many Cram Elementary students and teachers were decked out in black and white. A few teachers donned unique ensembles with black patches attached to their white shirts. All of this to honor the assembly's special guests: Clarabelle, a cow, and Ditto, a bull calf.

Clarabelle and Ditto are part of the Mobile Dairy Classroom, a partnership between the San Bernardino County Farm Bureau and the Dairy Council of California. There are six Mobile Dairy Classrooms in the state that travel to schools to hold free educational programs.



Cram Kindergarten Teacher Susy McLeod kisses Ditto, a bull calf, at the assembly last Tuesday.

Efrain Valenzuela, manager of the Mobile Dairy Classroom, shared facts about cows and dairy products with the Cram students. "It's about nutrition education," said Valenzuela. "I remind them where milk comes from."

Valenzuela explained the difference between cows, bulls and calves. He also explained that different cows produce different types of milk, with varying degrees of cream and milk. He demonstrated how to milk a cow and had the children try it on their down turned thumbs.

The children were surprised to learn Clarabelle eats 30 pounds of alfalfa hay each day and can drink 35 gallons of water.

In advance of the the assembly, the teachers sold tickets to see which of them would be the lucky ones to kiss the cow during the program. Kindergarten teacher Susy McLeod said her students brought in almost \$50 in hopes that she would be able to kiss the cow. She said her husband brought in \$200 to make sure that she won it. Laughing afterward, she said kissing the calf was "wonderful" and that she chose that calf over the cow because he was cuter and his nose was less wet.

At the end of the assembly, each child was given a certificate for a free milkshake from Baker's.

"It was cool," said third grader Kayla Miller, "I learned how they milk the cow and what food they eat."

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