WARSAW, Mo. – Earlier this week, I got a message from Santa Claus. He knows I help people who have animals, so he asked me to help him out this year.

Santa said about halfway through his travels on Christmas Eve, he needs to give the reindeer a snack so they will be able to finish the trip. Because of the route he will be taking this year, Santa will be over Mid-Missouri about the time the reindeer need to take a quick snack break. He asked me to help spread the word that he needs to give the reindeer some feed and water while he is in the area.

He was very specific about the types of things that should be left out for his reindeer. He said the best snacks for his reindeer on Christmas Eve would be fruits, vegetables or nuts. Items like apples, oranges, grapefruit, grapes, bananas, lettuce, celery, carrots, a bowl of non-sugary cereal, granola bars or peanuts would be good choices. He said he would give them a good meal of hay and grain once they finish the trip and are back at the North Pole.

Santa said to leave out items you already have in the house and not to go out and buy anything special. He said do not peel the fruit or open any containers of food. That way he can give each of his reindeer the exact amount of snack they need and no food will be wasted. Santa was very specific about only leaving out water for the reindeer to drink. He said soda would make his reindeer burp and that would throw him way off course.

You can leave the reindeer snacks right next to the snack you leave out for Santa. Santa wanted me to tell you that he really appreciates what you are doing for him and is looking forward to visiting your house on Christmas Eve. Finally, he wants to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Thanks for helping Santa make his trip a success!

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