



Howard McLeod Correctional Center
Atoka, Oklahoma

OFFENDER PROGRAMS

The HMCC Career Tech Skills Center gives offenders the opportunity to acquire job skills in the areas of Welding and Precision Machining Technology. Career Tech also aids released offenders in job placement in order to lessen the chance of re-offending.

Facility staff conduct offender self help programs in several areas. The programs currently include “Life Skills,” “Thinking for a Change,” “Anger Management,” and “PREP Marriage Initiative.” Each program is designed to address areas in the offender’s life that could negatively affect their life after incarceration.

AGRI-SERVICES

The Agriculture Services Farm Program staff consists of a Farm Manager IV, Farm Manager III, and two Farm Managers. The staff supervises approximately 47 offenders, which work in the following areas: Livestock, Tractor/ Farm Implements, Firewood and Brush Cutting, Utility Farm Crews (fence repair, hay

hauling, etc.), and vegetable production on approximately 92 acres of facility land.

Approximately 1,800 acres of facility property is covered with timber. An ongoing program to selectively cut the timber is in place that will allow more of the land to be grazed by cattle. Approximately 2,927 acres are presently being used as pasture land. Approximately 1,200 native pecan trees are also harvested. Approximately 550 head of cattle are being managed by Agriculture Services.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

In 1994, while training HMCC’s tracking dogs, COIV Bobby Cross found an extremely large bone north of the facility, on state property, that had been uncovered by rain. The bone was sent to the University of Oklahoma and was determined to be a dinosaur bone. Paleontologists from the university were sent to HMCC and have discovered 14 individual dinosaur skeletons of four different dinosaur species to include Tenontosaurus, Deinonychus, Acrocanthosaurus, and Sauroposeidon which is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest land dwelling dinosaur. Also found while digging dinosaur bones was a small mouse sized mammal from the same era that was named Paracimexomys-crossi after COIV Bobby Cross. The skeletons from the mammals and dinosaurs found on HMCC’s land are displayed in the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman.



The Howard McLeod Correctional Center (HMCC) was named after Howard C. McLeod, who started in corrections at the Oklahoma State Reformatory in Granite, Oklahoma. He later served as chief sergeant and assistant deputy at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary from 1940 to 1955. He was appointed warden at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and served in that capacity from 1955 to 1959. McLeod’s concern for meaningful labor for offenders led to the purchase of an “Honor Farm” outside Farris, Oklahoma, in Atoka county. That farm, known as the McLeod Honor Farm, later became the Howard C. McLeod Correctional Center. McLeod died in 1959 at the age of 63.



Offenders learning welding skills

OPERATIONS

Religion

The HMCC religious program is supervised by a full time chaplain who strives to accommodate all offenders in the practice of their faith. He is aided by approximately 120 volunteers who serve a valuable function in the delivery of religious services.

Medical

A health services unit is responsible for providing general medical care and emergency treatment of the offender population. Dental care is provided on-site. Psychological services are provided by a Psychological Clinician II who provides individual counseling to approximately 125 offenders each month.

Education

The Lakeside School offers learning opportunities for the offender population, regardless of their academic level, at no cost to the offender. The Education Department at Howard McLeod Correctional Center is currently staffed by four correctional teachers. At this time classes ranging from Literacy to GED are offered. Placement is determined by TABE testing for new arrivals at LARC or at HMCC to determine grade-level performance. College courses are also available through Rose State College for offenders who qualify.