



P.O. Box 57130  
Des Moines, IA 50317-0003  
Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org  
www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org

**Contact:**

Drew Norton, Communications Manager  
515-262-3111 Ext. 375  
Drew@BlueRibbonFoundation.org

(515) 262-3111 Ext. 371  
(800) 450-3732  
(515) 262-1902 (FAX)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Celebrate the Iowa State Fair's 'Locally Grown' Traditions at the 2016 Corndog Kickoff**

**Des Moines-** The internationally-acclaimed Iowa State Fair attracts more than a million people from around the world each year. Lucky for Iowans, the State Fair is able to retain its small town charm by showcasing quality fresh grown produce, farm raised livestock and top-notch Iowa artists. Just like your favorite neighborhood gathering, the Iowa State Fair welcomes families to share in the "Locally Grown" traditions.

Join the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation to celebrate our "Locally Grown" traditions during our 20th annual **Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction and Fair Food Grazing Party**, Saturday, July 9 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Doors to the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building will open at 6:30 p.m. for a night filled with exciting auction packages, entertainment and all of your favorite Fair foods. Get in the spirit for the 2016 Iowa State Fair while raising funds to renovate and restore the historic Fairgrounds.

Since its inception in 1997, the Corndog Kickoff has raised more than \$4.4 million for Fairgrounds renovations. Last year's event drew a crowd of nearly 2,000, raising a record high \$460,000! All proceeds go toward improvements of the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Highlights from this year's 28 live and 234 silent auction packages include:

- **Nothing Could be Finer-** Discover another state fair with a trip to Raleigh, North Carolina this October with round-trip airfare for two included. While you are there, enjoy a fireworks show from the drop zone and three North Carolina museums.
- **Deer Season-** Here's an opportunity to have an out-of-state hunting buddy join you during deer season. One out-of-state deer tag good for any of the 2016-17 or 2017-18 hunting seasons; shot gun, bow or muzzle loading.
- **A Night in the Grandstand-** Enjoy one of the following favorite acts of entertainment at the 2016 Iowa State Fair: Meghan Trainor, Dierks Bentley, Jeff Dunham, or Steven Tyler. These packages include Grandstand tickets, backstage passes, gate admission and a parking pass.
- **Know When to Hold 'Em-** Don't miss the opportunity to own this special poker table. A replica of President Harry Truman's favored poker table, this piece was handcrafted by two central Iowans.

All-inclusive Corndog Kickoff tickets are \$75 prior to June 30 and increase to \$100 each during the month of July. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Blue Ribbon Foundation at (800) 450-3732, online at [www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org](http://www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org) or at the door the night of the event.

The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Since its inception in 1993, the Foundation has generated more than \$115 million for renovations to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. For more information on the Corndog Kickoff, please contact the Foundation at (800) 450-3732 or [BlueRF@BlueRibbonFoundation.org](mailto:BlueRF@BlueRibbonFoundation.org).

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