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“American Classic” at the 2026 Iowa State Fair Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction

Des Moines, IA – The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation invites Fair fans from across the state to kick off the 2026 Iowa State Fair season at the annual Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction and Fair Food Grazing Party on Saturday, July 11. This year’s “American Classic” theme honors America’s 250th birthday, celebrating a year rooted in heritage, history, and heartland pride.

Held in the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building on the Iowa State Fairgrounds, the evening will feature favorite Fair foods, unique live and silent auction packages, entertainment, fireworks, and sky glider rides. Auction packages include everything from homemade baked goods and one-of-a-kind Fair experiences to exciting trips and specialty items.

Proceeds from the Corndog Kickoff directly support the mission of the Blue Ribbon Foundation to preserve and improve the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds. Funds raised from this year’s event will support vital improvements, including modernizing restrooms, installing a grounds-wide public address system for emergency announcements, and continuing enhancements to the Horse, Cattle, and Swine barns that host cherished livestock shows throughout the year.

Before the 2026 Iowa State Fair officially begins, Corndog Kickoff attendees will have the opportunity to gather with fellow Fair supporters, celebrate America’s milestone anniversary and invest in the future of the Fairgrounds. The Iowa State Fair is more than an event – it is a timeless tradition. Your participation in the Corndog Kickoff ensures this treasured gathering remains strong, vibrant, and accessible for families across our state.

Corndog Kickoff tickets are \$100 per person and will increase to \$125 on July 1. Tickets can be purchased online at BlueRibbonFoundation.org, by calling the Foundation at 515-262-3111 Ext. 371 or by visiting our office. Doors for the event open at 6:30 PM.

The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Since its inception in 1993, the Foundation has generated more than \$220 million for the renovation and preservation of the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds. For more information, please contact the Blue Ribbon Foundation at 515-262-3111 Ext. 371 or Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org.

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