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IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, IT'S THERE
Discovering Gastric New Delights at Nebraska State Fair

Grand Island, NE – If you can say Elvis-themed mini-donuts, bourbon honey pulled pork or gourmet donut Oreo burger without salivating down your chin, it might be because you are not hungry, or you have a handy napkin. The foodie craze is alive and well at Nebraska State Fair

The State Fair welcomes new foods each year to the vast plethora of tummy choices at concessions stands across the grounds. “Introducing new menu choices is a great attraction for fairgoers who love to try things that are new and different,” said Jaime Parr, director of sales for the Fair. “We strongly encourage concessionaires to be inventive because in this business, sometimes crazy wins.”

Probably one of the most anticipated menu items not only dazzles the gastric senses but also has a great presentation. Lenny Freund has created a gourmet mac and cheese buffet. The recipe itself is mouth-watering, but at Freund Family Foods, you can toss up his delectable pasta into a grilled cheese and bacon sandwich.

For fairgoers who like to be early, Cactus Jack’s will bring the Early Bird Burger, served until 10 a.m. daily. This protein monster will be added to a long list of gourmet burgers on the Cactus Jack’s menu. They also are adding a smokehouse

Philly burger, which likely needs no explanation. Discover Cactus Jacks at Food Pod 7.

Staying with the protein theme, Papa Tom's is stepping up their game with a bourbon honey pulled pork sandwich, and a side of Papa's beans to make a meal over at Cattle Barn West. Steve's Meat Shop, at Food Pod 6, will be introducing bacon-wrapped gator corndogs along with exotic fry bread. "The freshly rolled fry bread can be topped with buffalo, hot gator or wild boar meat," said Mike Fowler, owner. "We love it and it's selling well."

Speaking of burgers, should a guest want to stay in their comfort zone, stop by Porky's for a Gourmet Donut Burger with Froot Loops, Lucky Charms, Oreos, Double Bacon, and more.

Big Daddy's Mini Donuts found at Food Pod 6 will add a variety of mini donuts for patron taste buds. Specialty orders include the Dead Elvis with peanut butter, banana, jelly and bacon or the cherry bomb mini donuts with crushed graham cracker, cherry filling and custard. Guests wanting more cold fusion might like Hawaiian Chill's strawberry whip or pineapple whip upside down cake sundaes. Hawaiian Chill is nestled at Food Pod 7. For a super frozen treat, angry bull's dragon's breath subzero dessert treat can be found in the 4-H/FFA/Commercial Building.

Cucumber subs and poutine are new at Hall Family Foods, found at Food Pod 1, and Kim Laine Fun Foods will introduce bread pudding to the cinnamon roll trailer at Food Pod 3.

The 2018 Nebraska State Fair runs August 24 through September 3 in Grand Island. Ticket discounts are currently available at all Pump & Pantry locations or online at **StateFair.org**. Bundle prices, entertainment information and a schedule of events can be found online.