

Come hungry to the show

By JENNIFER VINCENT

THERE'S plenty to do and see at Ag Expo; there's also plenty to eat. Michigan State University Concessions, along with three independent vendors, will have locations throughout the Ag Expo grounds for easy access to a snack or full meal.

Key Points

- MSU Concessions has five locations on Ag Expo grounds.
- Turkey Man and Kowalski Meats will be supplying food again.
- New this year is Maria's Tacos, which offers many meals for \$5.

MSU Concessions has five locations: the big tent on the north side of the grounds, a trailer by the horse drop-off, and tents on the east side, center (by the mower demo) and on the west side (by the tractor pulls).



Photo courtesy of MSU Extension

TIME TO RECHARGE: Rest your feet and enjoy lunch or a snack at the main tent on the north side of Ag Expo grounds.

On the main menu are hamburgers, hot dogs, bratwurst, chicken and Philly steak sandwiches.

"The big tent has the most extensive offerings," explains Alan Wilkinson, assistant manager for MSU Concessions. "All the locations, except for the east tent, now offer french fries; they are a hot seller."

Sandwiches range from \$5 to the most expensive offering — the Philly, fry and drink combination — that sells for about \$9.

Fountain Pepsi beverages are available, as well as bottled water and a non-carbonated product, generally iced tea. Milk is also available at the main tent.

The concessions are open during the entire time at Ag Expo.

"The west-side tent has become our second-busiest location," Wilkinson says, "because there are activities all three days — tractors pulls Tuesday and Wednesday, and horse demos on Thursday."

More variety

Ag Expo also contracts with three area vendors to supply a variety of foods.

The Turkey Man of Lansing offers its famous barbecued turkey drumstick, as well as barbecued turkey sandwiches and a boneless barbecued pork sandwich, all in the \$5 range, Wilkinson says.

Kowalski Meats of Hamtramck serves up a variety of Polish offerings, including kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, sauerkraut, and pierogi, which is pasta stuffed with various fillings. Most items are about \$7.

New this year is Maria's Tacos, which has a store in Portland. "We used them at the Green and White Game and they were very well received," Wilkinson says. Maria's offers a taco plate (two tacos, refried beans and Mexican rice) and a burrito plate, (burrito, refried beans and Mexican rice) for \$5. Items are also available a la cart.

Local support

At Ag Expo's invitation-only kickoff breakfast for about 500 visitors, MSU Concessions is providing the meal and sourcing the food from Michigan growers. "That means we'll be cracking and scrambling the eggs instead of pouring it from a carton," Wilkinson says. They will also be peeling potatoes for hash browns, and the MSU Bakery will be using fresh Michigan blueberries in its muffins.

The meal will include a pork product (either ham or sausage) and Michigan apple juice, Country Fresh milk or coffee. "We're using Paramount, a local roaster, for the coffee," he adds.



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