

Let this 'mouse' be a star of the holiday buffet table

While it may not be the fabled mouse that "never stirred" the night before Christmas, this "mouse" can add its own special touch to holiday entertaining. It's a delightful "Ham 'N Cheese" creation that can be prepared ahead of time and wait quietly in the refrigerator to star in a gala holiday hors d'oeuvre buffet.

According to food and entertainment experts' reports, hors d'oeuvre buffet-style entertaining is much in vogue for the coming year. In addition, "gourmet exchanges" (taking a favorite hors d'oeuvre to a party) are an increasingly popular holiday trend.

For this holiday season, the following festive recipes are quick and easy for serving at home or at a "gourmet exchange."

HAM 'N CHEESE MOUSE

1 cup ground ham
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup (2 oz.) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
1/4 cup shredded carrot
1/4 cup shredded zucchini
1/4 tsp. garlic salt
8 thin carrot sticks, each cut 2 1/2-inches long
2 thin zucchini slices
1 narrow zucchini peel strip, 8-inches long
Assorted crackers

In blender or food processor, combine ham, cream cheese, shredded carrot, shredded zucchini and garlic salt. Blend until just mixed. Chill 1 hour. Shape into oblong ball. Form mouse face at one end. Insert carrot sticks for whiskers and zucchini slices for ears. Cut 2 round circles from zucchini peel; insert for eyes. Use remaining zucchini

peel for tail. Chill thoroughly. Serve with crackers.

BAKED DELI-BITES

1 15-oz. pkg. corn bread mix
1/4 cup milk
1 egg
1 10-oz. pkg. summer sausage — American Brand, finely chopped
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded Cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 400°. Combine corn bread mix, milk and egg; mix well. Stir in sausage and cheese. Shape into 1-inch balls. Place 1 inch apart on greased baking sheets. Bake at 400°, 15 minutes or until light brown. 50 appetizers.

BAKED BEEF DIP

1 2 1/2-oz. jar sliced dried beef, rinsed, chopped
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup dairy sour cream
2 tsp. milk
1 tsp. minced onion
1/4 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 cup chopped pecans
Assorted crackers

Heat oven to 350°. Combine all ingredients except pecans and crackers; spoon into lightly greased 1-quart casserole. Top with pecans. Bake at 350°, 20 minutes. Cool 10 minutes; serve as a dip with crackers. 2 cups.

Microwave Instructions: Combine all ingredients except pecans and crackers; spoon into lightly greased 1-quart glass casserole. Cook, covered, on high 2 minutes. Stir mixture. Top with pecans. Cook, uncovered, on high 2 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes. Serve as a

dip with crackers.

BACON-MUSHROOM CROWNS

40 medium mushrooms
1 lb. bacon, crisply cooked, crumbled
1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
1/4 cup finely crushed corn chips
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbsp. finely chopped onion
1 tbsp. dry red wine

Remove stems from cleaned mushrooms; chop stems. Combine stems with remaining ingredients. Fill mushroom caps; place half of mushrooms in glass baking dish stuffing side up. Cook on high 8 to 4 minutes. Repeat with remaining mushrooms.

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TANGY VIENNA ROUNDS

1 cup cottage cheese
1/4 cup finely chopped green onions
1/4 cup finely chopped cucumber
2 tsp. mayonnaise
1/4 tsp. celery seed
28 slices party pumpernickel bread
2 5-oz. cans Vienna sausage in beef stock, drained

In blender or food processor, combine cottage cheese, onions, cucumber, mayonnaise and celery seed. Blend until smooth. Chill 2 to 3 hours. Spread cottage cheese mixture on bread slices. Cut sausages in half lengthwise; place one piece sausage on each bread slice. 28 appetizers.



'Twas a holiday party and all through the house, the guests were stirring but not this mouse... it was just entertaining the partygoers who admired

the artistry before sampling the ham and cheese creation.

Festive mince cake is easy to prepare

Walnut chocolate mince cake is moist, dependably easy and festively flavored for holiday menus. To make, follow the mixing and fluted

tube pan baking directions for a pudding-type German chocolate cake mix. Add 1/4 cup prepared mincemeat and reduce the water by 1/4 cup. Walnut "pancoat" a well-

greased 12-cup fluted tube pan by sprinkling the bottom and sides with 1/4 cup finely chopped walnuts. Pour in the batter and bake as package directs.



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