



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 8, 2023

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What: 58th Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo

When: Wednesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 9

Where: Mississippi State Fairgrounds

Schedule of 58th Annual Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo Events Taking Place Today, Wednesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 9

STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson invites everyone to attend the 58th annual Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo and announces the schedule of events taking place today, Wednesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 9, 2023. All events take place on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.

The Mary Hopkins Memorial Equestrians with Disabilities AQHA Show concludes today with a final show inside the Kirk Fordice Equine Center, starting at 9:00 a.m. This unique event exhibits multiple horse skills from a variety of riders with some form of disability. This year, over 25 exhibitors from Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee will face off in a series of competitions including horsemanship, Para reigning, western pleasure and more. This event is free to the public.

Tomorrow, the main event taking place is the annual Sale of Junior Champions, which begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Trade Mart. A press conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. inside the Atrium of the Trade Mart as Commissioner Gipson kicks off the Sale of Champions. Commissioner Gipson will be joined Dr. Steve Martin, Interim Director of the Mississippi State University Extension Service; Gary Blair, Chairman of the Sale of Junior Champions Promotion Committee; two recipients of the Sale of Champions Scholarships, Emma Grace Koger from the Humphreys 4-H and Calden Ratliff from the Stone 4-H/Stone County FFA; Phillip Morgan, CEO of Southern AgCredit; and Rorey Lemmel of Harper & Morgan Rodeo.

The Sale of Junior Champions, one of the highlight traditions of the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, is a livestock auction where livestock exhibitors winning Champion and Reserve Champion in the

Junior Round Up Market Divisions sell their animals and scholarships are awarded. Last year, the final Sale of Champions featured 46 champion market animals, including 15 hogs, 12 goats, 10 lambs and nine steers. The preliminary total sale was \$448,500, setting a new record over the 53-year history of the sale. Scholarships were awarded to 39 student participants of the 2022 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows.

Also, the famous Dixie National Wagon Train will be rolling into Jackson this week, on Thursday, February 9, and Friday, February 10. Each year, groups from across the state make the long trek to the Capitol City in true, western style riding only wagons and mounted horses. Spectators will have the opportunity to observe the wagon trains along Highway 80 and I-55 South on Frontage Road around lunchtime each day.

Scheduled Activities & Events for Wednesday, February 8, 2023:

- 8:00 a.m. – Dairy Goat Show (Showmanship, Commercial Sr. Does, Commercial Jr. Does, Senior Does, Junior Does) - Judging Arena/Barn 14
- 9:00 a.m. – Equestrians with Disabilities Horse Show - Equine Center
- 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Dixie National Steakhouse - Trade Mart

Scheduled Activities & Events for Thursday, February 9, 2023:

- 11:00 a.m. – Sale of Junior Champions - Trade Mart
- 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Dixie National Steakhouse - Trade Mart

Events of the 58th Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo run through Sunday, February 19, 2023. The Dixie National Rodeo, the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi River, takes place Friday, February 10, through Sunday, February 12, and again Wednesday, February 15, through Saturday, February 18, inside the Mississippi Coliseum at the State Fairgrounds.

Rodeo Entertainment:

Friday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. – Randy Houser
Saturday, February 11, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – Chancey Williams
Sunday, February 12, at 2:00 p.m. – Mark Chesnutt
Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. – Lainey Wilson
Thursday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. – Diamond Rio
Friday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. – Casey Donahew
Saturday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – Chris Lane

To purchase tickets to the Dixie National Rodeo, visit <https://www.ticketmaster.com/dixie-national-rodeo-tickets/artist/848320>. A limited number of concert-only tickets to Lainey Wilson following the February 15 performance of the Dixie National Rodeo are available for purchase at the Mississippi Coliseum Ticket Office.

For more information, visit www.dixienational.org, follow the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo on Facebook or call 601-961-4000.

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