



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations**  
**(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897**  
[Paige@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Paige@mdac.ms.gov)

**Hannah East, Marketing Specialist**  
**(601) 359-1179**  
[HannahE@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:HannahE@mdac.ms.gov)

## **Mississippi Fairgrounds to Host Kids Day at Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo**

**STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss.** – The first Kids Day at the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14, in the Mississippi Coliseum. More than 1,500 students from area schools will attend this free event. Students will be educated on the importance of rodeo and the athleticism of livestock and equine. Participating students will take part in the Dixie National Rodeo’s opening ceremony where Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will address the students from his horse, Gunsmoke. They will watch cowgirls from across the country compete during the barrel racing slack and will have the opportunity to meet rodeo queens and clowns.

“The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Mississippi State Fairgrounds are proud to host the first-ever Kids Day at the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo. This free event exposes our youth to the rodeo way of life, allowing them to see first-hand rodeo’s contribution to the agriculture and livestock industries while providing fun-filled entertainment,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Youth development is a top priority at the Department to prepare workforce and reduce brain drain from Mississippi. Events like this create opportunities to show our youth a side of agriculture they may not be familiar with and open their minds to potential future career paths.”

The Dixie National Rodeo continues February 15-18. Tickets to the Dixie National Rodeo can be purchased at the Coliseum Box Office or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). For more information, download the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo mobile app, visit [www.dixienational.org](http://www.dixienational.org) and follow the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo page on Facebook.

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**Media Note: Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will be available for interviews at 10:00 a.m. following his address to the students. The media is invited to attend. Those requesting an interview can meet in the lower-level hallway on the north side of the Coliseum by the welcome mural featuring Lecile Harris, a past Dixie National rodeo clown. Call Paige Manning at 662-312-5897 with any questions.**