



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Covington County Youth Recognized at Annual Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions

STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss. – This year, 1,257 4-H and FFA members across Mississippi participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows, showing 2,153 head of livestock. These students competed for the opportunity to participate in the 54th annual Sale of Junior Champions. The Sale of Junior Champions, one of the highlight events 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.

“One of the most coveted honors for Mississippi’s youth livestock exhibitors is participating in the Sale of Junior Champions. The hard work and dedication that it takes to compete surpasses that required for a number of other youth activities. These youth are our future leaders. The skills and lessons learned will not just impact their generation; it will impact future generations to come,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “I am so proud of all the students from across our great state who worked hard all year to raise these animals and participate in the 2023 Dixie National livestock shows. Congratulations to all of our winners and scholarship recipients.”

During the Sale of Junior Champions, several student members of the Covington County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. Jacob Russell, Grand Champion of the Mississippi Bred Yorkshire Hog Show; Jadynd Sanford, Reserve Grand Champion of the Crossbred Hog Show, Reserve Champion of the Hampshire Hog Show and Champion of the Mississippi Bred Lightweight European Steer Show; and Mary Bradley Woods, Champion of the Hampshire Hog Show, all participated in the sale. In addition, Jadynd Sanford was recognized as a supreme exhibitor.

The final Sale of Champions featured a record 48 champion market animals, including eight steers, 16 hogs, 12 goats, 10 lambs and for the first time, two hair sheep. The preliminary total sale was \$456,285. The Sale of Champions Promotion Committee raised \$61,500 in scholarships, including numerous \$1,500 scholarships for high school senior exhibitors. This year, scholarships were awarded to 39 student participants of the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows.

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Photos attached.



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions MS Bred Grand Champion/Champ
Yorkshire/Champ MS Bred Yorkshire Hog Exhibited by Jacob Russell, Covington 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Grand Champion/Res Champ Crossbred Hog
Exhibited by Jadyne Sanford, Covington 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Hampshire Hog
Exhibited by Jadyn Sanford, Covington 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Lightweight European/MS Bred Champ
Lightweight European Steer Exhibited by Jadyn Sanford, Covington 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Hampshire Hog
Exhibited by Mary Bradley Woods, Covington 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Supreme Exhibitors.
L-R: Katy Kendall and Hannah Hayes Ware, Montgomery 4-H; Paxton and Mallery Lemoine,
Rankin 4-H/Puckett FFA; Chase Boone, Smith 4-H/Raleigh FFA; Delayne Hughes, Forrest 4-H;
Carl Taylor, Prentiss 4-H; Not Pictured: Cloe Caroline Strohm, Hinds 4-H;
Jadyn Sanford, Covington 4-H.**