



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2023

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Lafayette 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 Lafayette County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. William Allen Flournoy, Reserve Champion of the Light Mediumweight Goat Show, and Taylor, Ann Fleming and Wilson Leflore, Champions of the Mediumweight Goat Show, Reserve Champions of the Light Heavyweight Goat Show and Grand Champions of the Division 2 Hair Sheep Show, all participated in the sale.

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 Res Champion Light Mediumweight Goat
Exhibited by William Allen Flournoy, Lafayette 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Mediumweight Goat
Exhibited by Taylor, Ann Fleming & Wilson Leflore, Lafayette 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Light Heavyweight Goat
Exhibited by Wilson, Taylor & Ann Fleming Leflore, Lafayette 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Grand Champion/Champ Division 2 Hair Sheep
Exhibited by Taylor, Ann Fleming & Wilson Leflore, Lafayette 4-H.**