



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2023

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

Hannah East, Marketing Specialist
(601) 359-1179
HannahE@mdac.ms.gov

Lincoln County Youth Recognized at Annual Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions
State Senator Showing with Lincoln County Youth Wins Dixie National Legislative Showdown

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 Lincoln County 4-H and Loyd Star FFA organizations were recognized for their achievements. Sutton Burns, Grand Champion of the Mississippi Bred Heavyweight European Steer Show and Champion of the Mississippi Bred American Steer Show, participated in the sale. In addition, Kylie Graves, Jaylynn Cloy and Grant Goree were all awarded scholarships.

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.

In addition, state Senator Tyler McCaughn joined Kash Goldman, student member of the Lincoln County 4-H and Enterprise FFA, for the 2023 Dixie National Legislative Livestock Showdown. This unique show is an annual competition of skill and showmanship between Mississippi legislators, who team up with the junior livestock exhibitors from their respective districts. The legislators are divided into two groups between the representatives and senators, with a winner being determined for each group, as well as an overall champion. This year, Sen. McCaughn was the winner of the Senate Showdown. Representative Tom Miles was the winner of the House of Representatives Showdown and the overall winner of the 2023 Legislative Livestock Showdown.

###

Photos attached.



State Senator Tyler McCaughn joined Kash Goldman, student member of the Lincoln County 4-H and Enterprise FFA, for the 2023 Dixie National Legislative Livestock Showdown. Over 30 legislators participated in this unique show, with Sen. McCaughn winning the Senate Showdown.



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Grand Champion/Champ Heavyweight European/MS Bred Grand Champ/MS Bred Champ Heavyweight Steer Exhibited by Sutton Burns, Lincoln 4-H/Loyd Star FFA.



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion American/MS Bred Champ American Steer Exhibited by Sutton Burns, Lincoln 4-H/Loyd Star FFA.



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Scholarship Recipients.

L-R: Front row, Layla Bramlitt, Calhoun 4-H; Addison Lindsey, Scott 4-H/Pelahatchie FFA; Ann Cole Hammons, Rankin 4-H; Sadie Morris, South Panola FFA/Panola 4-H; Caroline Chapman, Tippah 4-H/Pine Grove FFA; Maddie Grace Walters, Rankin 4-H/Pelahatchie FFA; Ann Rileigh Holder, Jones 4-H; Emma Grace Koger, Humphreys 4-H; Ferrell-Alleyn Stonecypher, Humphreys 4-H; Kylie Graves, Lincoln 4-H; Jaylynn Cloy, Lincoln 4-H; Madelyn Lewis, Hinds 4-H. Back row, Aiden Harper, Jasper 4-H; Preston Aust, Humphreys 4-H; Colton Howell, Holmes 4-H; Joseph Nelson, Walthall 4-H; Collin Culpepper, Jones 4-H/S. Jones FFA; J.J. Hill, Stringer FFA/Jasper 4-H; Grant Goree, Lincoln 4-H; Jon Tyler Wells, Scott 4-H/Pisgah FFA; Will Manning, Union 4-H; Calden Ratliff, Stone 4-H/Stone Co. FFA; Conner Shelton, Calhoun 4-H/Bruce FFA; Jensen Cain, Calhoun 4-H; Dru Prisock, Oktibbeha 4-H.