



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Montgomery 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 Montgomery County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. Avery Wood, Reserve Champion of the Division 2 Lamb Show; Hannah Hayes and Katy Kendall Ware, Reserve Grand Champions of the Division 3 Lamb Show, Grand Champions of the Mississippi Bred Division 5 Lamb Show and Champions of both the Division 2 and Division 4 Lamb Shows; and Hayes Henderson, Grand Champion of the Division 5 Lamb Show, Reserve Grand Champion of the Mississippi Bred Division 3 Lamb Show, Reserve Champion of the Division 4 Lamb Show and Grand Champion of the Light Heavyweight Goat Show, all participated in the sale. In addition, Katy Kendall and Hannah Hayes Ware were both recognized as supreme exhibitors.

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 Division 2 Lamb  
Exhibited by Avery Wood, Montgomery 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Grand Champion/Champ Division 3 Lamb  
Exhibited by Hannah Hayes & Katy Kendell Ware, Montgomery 4-H.**





**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions MS Bred Grand Champion/MS Bred Champ  
Division 5/Res Champ Division 5 Lamb  
Exhibited by Hannah Hayes & Katy Kendell Ware, Montgomery 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Division 2 Lamb  
Exhibited by Katy Kendell & Hannah Hayes Ware, Montgomery 4-H.**





**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Division 4 Lamb**  
**Exhibited by Katy Kendell & Hannah Hayes Ware, Montgomery 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Grand Champion/Champ Division 5 Lamb**  
**Exhibited by Hayes Henderson, Montgomery 4-H.**





**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions MS Bred Res Grand Champion/Res Champ Division 3/MS Bred Champ Division 3 Lamb Exhibited by Hayes Henderson, Montgomery 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Division 4 Lamb Exhibited by Hayes Henderson, Montgomery 4-H.**





**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Grand Champion/Champ Light Heavyweight Goat  
Exhibited by Hayes Henderson, Montgomery 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Supreme Exhibitors.  
L-R: Katy Kendall and Hannah Hayes Ware, Montgomery 4-H; Paxton and Mallary 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.**