



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Oktibbeha 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, one student member of the Oktibbeha County 4-H organization was recognized for their achievements. Dru Prisock was awarded a scholarship.

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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Photo attached.



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.