



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Smith 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 Smith County 4-H, Mize FFA and Raleigh FFA organizations were recognized for their achievements. Sadie Shoemaker, Reserve Champion of the Mississippi Bred Lightweight European Steer Show, as well as Will, Luke and Graci Sullivan, Reserve Champions of the Hereford Hog Show, all participated in the sale. In addition, Chase Boone was recognized as both a premier and 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 Res Champ Lightweight European/MS Bred
Res Champ Lightweight European Steer Exhibited by Sadie Shoemaker, Smith 4-H.**



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Hereford Hog
Exhibited by Will, Luke & Graci Sullivan, Smith 4-H/Mize FFA.**



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Premier Exhibitors.

L-R: Chase Boone, Smith 4-H/Raleigh FFA; Leighton Horton, Tippah 4-H; Lee Taylor, Prentiss 4-H/New Site FFA; Claire Necaie, Hancock 4-H; Hope White, Jones 4-H/West Jones FFA; Ayden Wolken, Simpson 4-H/SCTC FFA.



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.