



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Sunflower 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 Sunflower County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. Caroline and Dowdy Carman, Champions of the Duroc Hog Show, Reserve Champions of the Chester Hog Show, Grand Champions of the Crossbred Hog Show and Champions of the Chester Hog Show, as well as Emma Grace Putnam, Reserve Champion of the Lightweight Goat 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 Champion Duroc Hog
Exhibited by Caroline & Dowdy Carman, Sunflower 4-H.



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Chester Hog
Exhibited by Caroline & Dowdy Carman, Sunflower 4-H.



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Grand Champion/Champ Crossbred Hog
Exhibited by Caroline & Dowdy Carman, Sunflower 4-H.



2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Chester Hog
Exhibited by Dowdy & Caroline Carman, Sunflower 4-H.



**2023 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Lightweight Goat
Exhibited by Emma Grace Putnam, Sunflower 4-H.**