

## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## Commissioner Andy Gipson Announces Entertainment Lineup for 2024 Dixie National Rodeo Officials Also Discuss Preparations and Details Ahead of the 2023 Mississippi State Fair

**STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss.** – Today, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announced the entertainment lineup for the upcoming 59th annual Dixie National Rodeo, which runs February 9-17, 2024. Tickets will officially go on sale tomorrow, Friday, September 29.

"We are excited to announce this year's entertainment lineup for the annual Dixie National Rodeo," said Commissioner Gipson. "Tickets will go on sale tomorrow, and as we've seen shows sell out quickly in years past, I encourage the public to purchase their tickets in advance."

Dixie National Rodeo performances are as follows:

- Friday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. Jameson Rodgers
- Saturday, February 10, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tracy Byrd
- Sunday February 11, at 2:00 p.m. Chris Cagle
- Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m. Megan Moroney
- Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Sammy Kershaw
- Friday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. Corey Kent
- Saturday, February 17, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Parmalee

The Dixie National Rodeo, produced by Harper & Morgan Rodeo, is the largest professional rodeo east of the Mississippi River. Starting tomorrow, September 29, tickets will be available for purchase at the Coliseum Box Office, or online at <u>www.ticketmaster.com</u> and <u>https://www.dixienational.org</u>. The Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, a six-week event featuring livestock shows, musical performances and rodeo competitions, generates millions of dollars for the local economy each year. For more information on the 2024 Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, visit <u>https://www.dixienational.org</u>.

Commissioner Gipson announced that fairgoers will experience a 'Taste of the Dixie National Rodeo' at this year's upcoming Mississippi State Fair. Daily Taste of the Dixie National Rodeo shows will run throughout the duration of the fair and will include bull riding, calf scrambles, bucking broncs, live entertainment and rodeo clowns. Special guest, Forrie J. Smith, will also make an appearance at the Taste of the Dixie National Rodeo to meet and greet fans October 7-8.

In addition, Commissioner Gipson and State Fairgrounds officials provided further details and addressed security policies ahead of the upcoming Mississippi State Fair. Commissioner Gipson was joined by Michael Lasseter, director of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds; Jimmy Herzog, chief of security for the Mississippi State Fairgrounds; Colonel Randy Ginn, director of the Mississippi Highway Patrol; Chief Bo Luckey, Mississippi State Capitol Police; Sheriff Tyree Jones, Hinds County Sheriff's Office; Captain Mark Hodges, Jackson Police Department; and other law enforcement officers.

"Safety and security are our top priority here at the State Fairgrounds," continued Commissioner Gipson. "We had a very safe and successful fair last year, and we plan to implement that same security model at the 2023 State Fair. We've expanded and made improvements to our parking lots, adding an additional 850 parking spaces. And we also installed new lighting and cameras around the fairgrounds. This event is for our Mississippi families, and we have worked hard to make the State Fair an enjoyable and relaxing outing for all our citizens. I'm proud of the team we have assembled, and I want to thank our state and local law enforcement partners for all that they do to ensure a safe and family-friendly environment at the Mississippi State Fair."

Mississippi State Fairgrounds Security Policies:

- Beginning at 9:00 p.m., any guest under the age of eighteen (18) seeking admission to the Fairgrounds must be accompanied by a legal adult (21 or older). Any guest may be asked to show official proof of age to be admitted after 9:00 p.m.
- When entering the Midway, all guests will proceed through one of the several entry security points utilizing a metal detector, and/or be subject to magnetic wanding.
- All bags are subject to search. The maximum bag size that will be accepted into the Fair is 12"x12"x6".
- No outside food or beverage allowed.
- No marketing, soliciting, political or vending items allowed unless and as authorized under Fairground regulations.
- No animals (other than service animals or as authorized by Fair management for Fair activities), banners, fireworks/explosives or laser pointers allowed.
- Pursuant to state law, the legal carry of firearms by all lawful adults is recognized on the Mississippi Fairgrounds.
- Exceptions and challenges to these policies will be satisfied at the discretion of Fair Management.

For the 164th Mississippi State Fair, the State Fairgrounds has partnered with the Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi State Capitol Police, Department of Homeland Security, State Fire Marshal's Office, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau, Hinds County Sheriff's Office, Jackson Police Department, Pearl Police Department and Florence Police Department.

Find the complete schedule of fair events at <u>www.msstatefair.com</u>. For additional information, visit <u>www.mississippifairgrounds.com</u>, call the Coliseum Box Office at 601-961-4000 and follow the Mississippi State Fair on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

To view the press conference in its entirety, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L2DhSSAEPo.

Photo attached.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson and the Mississippi State Fairgrounds announced the entertainment lineup for the upcoming 2024 Dixie National Rodeo at a press conference. Officials also addressed preparations and security policies ahead of the 2023 Mississippi State Fair.