



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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**Lincoln County Youth Recognized at Annual Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions
*State Representative Showing with Lincoln County Youth Wins Dixie National Legislative Showdown***

STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss. – This year, 1,225 4-H and FFA members across Mississippi participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows, showing 2,084 head of livestock. These students competed for the opportunity to participate in the 55th annual Sale of Junior Champions. The Sale of Junior Champions, one of the highlight events of the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, is an auction where livestock exhibitors winning Champion and Reserve Champion in the Junior Round-Up Market Divisions sell their animals and scholarships are awarded.

“As the state’s number one economic driver as well as our largest industry and largest employer, agriculture is key to solving Mississippi’s workforce development challenges and getting more young people involved in work opportunities. I strongly believe our ag and youth livestock programs through 4-H and FFA are key. These programs are the best youth and workforce development programs in the state,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce recognizes the hard work and dedication of these young people. They are our future leaders. Thousands participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock shows, and at the Sale of Junior Champions, we celebrated the best of the best. I am proud of all the students from across our great state who worked hard all year to raise these animals and show at Dixie National. Congratulations to our 2024 winners and scholarship recipients.”

During the Sale of Junior Champions, several student members of the Lincoln County 4-H, Enterprise FFA and Loyd Star FFA organizations were recognized for their achievements. Kylie Graves, Champion of the English Steer Show, participated in the sale. In addition, Kaleigh Robinson was recognized as a premier exhibitor, and Breelynn Cloy and Bayleigh Hutson were both awarded scholarships.

The final Sale of Champions featured a record 53 champion market animals, including eight steers, 17 hogs, 12 goats, 12 lambs and four hair sheep. The preliminary sale total was \$484,010. The Sale of Champions Promotion Committee raised \$61,500 in scholarships, totaling almost \$1.2 million in scholarship money since 1993. This year, scholarships were awarded to 39 student participants of the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows.

In addition, State Representative Vince Mangold joined Julian Chavez, student member of the Lincoln County 4-H, for the 2024 Dixie National Legislative Livestock Showdown. This unique show is an annual competition of skill and showmanship between Mississippi legislators, who partner with junior livestock exhibitors from their respective districts. The legislators are divided into two groups between the representatives and senators, with a winner being determined for each group, as well as an overall champion. This year, Representative Vince Mangold was the winner of the House of Representatives Showdown. Senator Andy Berry was the winner of the Senate Showdown and the overall champion of the Legislative Livestock Showdown.

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Photos attached.



Champion English Steer. Exhibited by Kylie Graves, Lincoln 4-H.



2024 Premier Exhibitors. L-R: Emma Grace Putnam, Sunflower 4-H; Hannah Hayes Ware, Montgomery 4-H; Ayden Wolken, Simpson 4-H/Simpson Co. Votech; Teddy Haffey, Itawamba 4-H; Lindsey Hogue, Yazoo 4-H; Kaleigh Robinson, Lincoln 4-H/Enterprise FFA.



2024 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Scholarship Recipients.

L-R: Front row, Jessalyn Savell, Newton 4-H; Breelynn Cloy, Lincoln 4-H; Lainey Cochran, Jackson 4-H/East Central FFA; Anna Lauryn Grayson, Smith 4-H; Leah Walker, DeSoto 4-H; Sadee Mae Dickens, Covington 4-H; Jayce Grubbs, Pontotoc 4-H; Callee Knotts, Jones 4-H/West Jones FFA; Delainey Walker, Brooklyn FFA; Sara-Addison Poe, Leflore 4-H; Drue Johnson, Holmes 4-H; Kayl Tassin, Marion 4-H; Londyn Simpson, Desoto 4-H/Independence FFA. Back row, Jax Clark, Newton 4-H; Cole Knotts, Jones 4-H/NE Jones FFA; Randon McDaniel, Union 4-H; Kade Lott, Forrest 4-H; Connor Kilpatrick, Pontotoc 4-H; Brayden Clifton, Tippah 4-H; Russ Wagner, Newton 4-H/FFA; Grace Tutor, Brooklyn FFA; Bayleigh Hutson, Lincoln 4-H/Loyd Star FFA; Dusty King, Jasper 4-H/Stringer FFA; Logan Cushman, Smith 4-H. Not Pictured: Jana Claire Ishee, Jasper 4-H/Stringer FFA.



State Representative Vince Mangold joined Julian Chavez, student member of the Lincoln County 4-H, for the 2024 Dixie National Legislative Livestock Showdown. Forty-four legislators participated in this unique show, with Representative Vince Mangold winning the House of Representatives Showdown.