



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2026

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What: 61st Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo

When: Wednesday, February 18, and Thursday, February 19

Where: Mississippi State Fairgrounds

Schedule of 61st Annual Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo Events Taking Place Tomorrow, Wednesday, February 18, and Thursday, February 19

STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson invites everyone to attend the 61st annual Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo and announces the schedule of events taking place tomorrow, Wednesday, February 18, and Thursday, February 19. All events take place on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.

The **Dixie National Rodeo** starts back up tomorrow with bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing. Legendary country artist Tanya Tucker will perform immediately following rodeo competitions. A few of her many top hits include “Delta Dawn,” “Blood Red and Goin’ Down” and “The Jamestown Ferry.” As a special event, Cavender’s is sponsoring a costume contest, **“Way Back Wednesday,”** at 6:00 p.m. Rodeo attendees dressing in their best retro western wear can enter to win a gift card to Cavender’s. Participants can enter the contest at the Gold Buckle Entrance inside the Coliseum Vestibule when they arrive.

Then, following the action-packed Rodeo on Thursday, February 19, rodeo fans will enjoy a performance by up-and-coming artist Waylon Wyatt. Wyatt’s hits include “Arkansas Diamond,” “Smoke & Embers” and “In Loving Melody.”

Fast-paced **Cinch Breakaway Roping** is a new addition at the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo this year, taking place tomorrow and Wednesday inside the Kirk Fordice Equine Center, starting at 9:00 a.m. This timed rodeo event involves mounted competitors roping a calf as fast as they can. The rope is fastened to the saddle horn with a string, and the timer stops when the string breaks, ending the run.

Another addition this year is the **Dixie National Super Sort**, which kicks off Thursday inside the Kirk Fordice Equine Center. Super Sort is a ranch-style equestrian event where riders compete against the clock to sort cattle into pens in numerical order. This unique competition tests a team’s horsemanship, strategy and teamwork skills while racing against the clock. Both equine events, Breakaway Roping and Super Sort, are open and free to the public.

Scheduled Activities & Events for Wednesday, February 18, 2026:

- 9:00 a.m. – Dixie National Cinch Breakaway Roping - Equine Center
- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Dixie National Steakhouse - Trade Mart
- 6:00 p.m. – “Wayback Wednesday” Costume Contest - Coliseum Vestibule
- 7:00 p.m. – Dixie National Rodeo featuring Tanya Tucker - Coliseum

Scheduled Activities & Events for Thursday, February 19, 2026:

- 8:00 a.m. – Dixie National Super Sort - Equine Center
- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Dixie National Steakhouse - Trade Mart
- 7:00 p.m. – Dixie National Rodeo featuring Waylon Wyatt - Coliseum

In conjunction with the nationwide America250 celebrations, this year’s Dixie National will take on a special patriotic focus. Events of the 61st Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo run through Sunday, February 22, 2026. The Dixie National Rodeo, the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi River, runs through Saturday, February 21, inside the Mississippi Coliseum at the State Fairgrounds.

Rodeo Entertainment:

- Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. – Tanya Tucker
- Thursday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. – Waylon Wyatt
- Friday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m. – Muscadine Bloodline
- Saturday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – Mark Chesnutt

To purchase tickets to the Dixie National Rodeo, visit www.ticketmaster.com/search?q=dixie+national+rodeo online or the Coliseum Box Office in-person. For more information on the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, visit www.dixienational.org and follow the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo on Facebook, Instagram and X.

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Photo attached.



Approximately 4,000 students from schools around the state attended School Field Trip Day at the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo.

MEDIA NOTE:

A designated Media Room will be available to local/state newspapers, tv stations and print and broadcasting media for the Dixie National Rodeo, which takes place February 13-15 and 18-21. Media will have access to live updates/stats from each rodeo performance, current leaderboard information and exclusive one-on-one interviews with rodeo competitors and entertainers. The media room, or Gray Room, is located on the south side of the Coliseum. To enter the Coliseum, simply show your work ID badge at the doors. Enter the Coliseum through the glass doors on the south side and take an immediate right. The media room will be on your right. The room is easily visible and will be labeled MEDIA ROOM.

Media passes will be distributed in the Media Room for those who want to get b-roll footage inside the Coliseum arena. You will be directed to the reserved section designated for your camera crews. We will bring cowboys/clowns/queens/etc. to the media room for interviews. If there are specific people that you would like to interview for a story, let us know ahead of time and we will work to make those happen.

Immediately following each rodeo performance, a rodeo announcer will be in the Media Room to provide a Rodeo Recap to the media.

If members of the media would like to request interviews regarding Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo events, please contact Hannah East at hannahe@mdac.ms.gov or (662) 816-3230.