



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi State Fairgrounds Hosts the Annual MEGA Barrel Race

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi State Fairgrounds is hosting the annual MEGA Barrel Race Thursday, August 20, through Saturday, August 22. The MEGA Barrel Race is a free event held in the Kirk Fordice Equine Center, and features competitors of all ages from across the nation.

“Events like this and other horse shows demonstrate that we can safely and successfully hold large events on the fairgrounds during this pandemic when incorporating precautionary measures,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “We are observing state face mask requirements and encouraging visitors to maintain six feet of social distance between groups. Hand sanitizing stations are also provided throughout the grounds.”

The competition runs from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, and Friday, August 21. The winners will then compete in the finals held from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 22. First, second and third place champions of each division win cash prizes, belt buckles and more. During this event, Penn’s Restaurant and City Limit Concessions vendors will be open to the public each day of the competition.

Ralph and Lynn Feathers of Byhalia, Miss., coordinate this annual, family-fun event. Visit ‘The MEGA Barrel Race’ page on Facebook for more information.

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Photos attached.



Competitors of the 2020 MEGA Barrel Race exercise their horses in the Kirk Fordice Equine Center at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.



**Ralph and Lynn Feathers of Marshall County display the check for the overall grand champion winner of the 2020 MEGA Barrel Race. At the conclusion of competitions, they will present the prizes for first, second and third place within each division.
Pictured left to right: Ralph Feathers, Lynn Feathers and Mark Wolken, the Kirk Fordice Equine Building Manager.**



When hosting events, the Mississippi State Fairgrounds requires visitors to observe state face mask requirements and follow social distancing rules. Hand sanitizing stations are provided throughout the grounds.