



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 12, 2021

Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897
Paige@mdac.ms.gov

Hannah East, Marketing Specialist
(601) 359-1179
HannahE@mdac.ms.gov

Rankin County Youth Recognized at Annual Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions

JACKSON, Miss. – 4-H and FFA students from across Mississippi recently participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds competing for the opportunity to participate in the Sale of Junior Champions. The Sale of Junior Champions, one of the highlight events of the Dixie National Livestock Show, 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.

“The annual Dixie National Junior Sale of Champions is a crucial competition that provides our youth with an opportunity like none other,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “I am proud of all the students from across the state who worked hard all year to raise these animals and participate in the 2021 Dixie National livestock shows. I want to thank all those that made this beloved event a success and congratulate all of our winners.”

During the Sale of Junior Champions, several student members of the Rankin County 4-H, Star FFA and Puckett FFA organizations were recognized for their achievements. Vivien and Dane Stevens, Champions of the Division 3 Lamb Show and Reserve Champions of the Division 1 Lamb Show; Mayelee Warren, Reserve Champion of the Lightweight Goat Show; and Paxton, Mallary and Payton Lemoine, Reserve Grand Champions of the Champion Lightweight Goat Show, participated in the sale. In addition, Brinkley Boswell and Paxton, Mallary and Payton Lemoine were all recognized as supreme exhibitors.

The final Sale of Champions featured 45 champion market animals, including 16 hogs, 10 goats, 10 lambs and nine steers. The preliminary total sale was \$390,925, which is the second largest total on record. Sale proceeds for hogs reached \$132,500; steers, \$93,000; goats, \$78,675; and lambs, \$85,250. This year, scholarships were awarded to 38 student participants of the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows.

For more information about the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and upcoming events hosted at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, visit www.mdac.ms.gov or follow the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Mississippi State Fairgrounds on Facebook.

###

Photos attached.



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Division 3 Lamb
Exhibited by Vivien & Dane Stevens, Rankin 4-H**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Champion Division 1/
MS Bred Reserve Champ Division 1 Lamb
Exhibited by Dane & Vivien Stevens, Rankin 4-H**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Champion Lightweight Goat
Exhibited by Mayelee Warren, Loyd Star FFA**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Grand Champion/Champ Lightweight Goat
Exhibited by Paxton, Mallary & Payton Lemoine, Rankin 4-H/Puckett FFA**



2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Supreme Exhibitors

L-R: Kolby & John Michael Donahoo, commercial gilt, Humphreys 4-H; Carl Taylor, dairy cattle female, Prentiss 4-H; Dalton Cooper, commercial beef heifer, Union 4-H; Tyler Lindsey, beef bull, Jones 4-H; Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson; Addison Vowell, beef female, Scott 4-H; Brinkley Boswell, dairy goat female, Rankin 4-H; Mallary, Paxton & Payton Lemoine, commercial meat goat doe, Rankin 4-H/Puckett FFA.