



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Sunflower 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 Sunflower County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. Emma Grace, Thomas and Lily Putnam, Reserve Champions of the Mississippi Bred Champion Division 2 Lamb Show, as well as John Clayton and Kathryn Chism, Reserve Champions of the Mississippi Bred Barrow Show, participated in the sale.

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.

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Photos attached.



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Champion Division 2/
MS Bred Champion Division 2 Lamb
Exhibited by Emma Grace, Thomas, & Lily Putnam, Sunflower 4-H**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions MS Bred Reserve Champion Barrow
Exhibited by John Clayton & Kathryn Chism, Sunflower 4-H**