



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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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

Pontotoc 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 Pontotoc County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. Elizabeth and Sadie Nichols, Grand Champions of the Mississippi Bred Champion Market Mediumweight Goat Show, participated in the sale. In addition, Connor Kilpatrick was recognized as a premier exhibitor.

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 Grand Champion/Champ Mediumweight/
MS Bred Grand Champ Market/MS Bred Champ Mediumweight Goat
Exhibited by Elizabeth & Sadie Nichols, Pontotoc 4-H**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Premier Exhibitors
L-R: Connor Kilpatrick, dairy cattle, Pontotoc 4-H; Hannah Buse, beef cattle, Jones 4-H; Amanda
Johnson, dairy goat, Lee 4-H/Saltillo FFA; Regan Hand, meat goat, Newton 4-H/FFA; Katy
Kendell Ware, sheep, Montgomery 4-H; Rachel Carr, swine, Leflore 4-H.**