



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Smith 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 Smith County 4-H, Mize FFA and Raleigh FFA organizations were recognized for their achievements. Zoe and Xander Maness, Grand Champions of the Lightweight European Steer Show; Jake and Faith Sullivan, Reserve Champions of the Lightweight European Steer Show; Luke, Will and Graci Sullivan, Champions of the Spotted Hog Show and Reserve Champions of the Chester Hog Show; and Delton and Chase Boone, Reserve Grand Champions of the Champion English Steer Show and Reserve Champions of the American Steer Show, participated in the sale. In addition, Marley Thornton, Anna Beth Blackwell, Tristen Phillipson, Chloe Tolar and Ryan Purvis were all awarded scholarships.

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 MS Bred Grand Champion/Champ
Lightweight European/MS Bred Champ Lightweight European Steer
Exhibited by Zoe & Xander Maness, Smith 4-H**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Champion Lightweight European/
MS Bred Reserve Champ Lightweight European Steer
Exhibited by Jake & Faith Sullivan, Smith 4-H/Mize FFA**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion Spotted Hog
Exhibited by Luke, Will & Graci Sullivan, Smith 4-H/Mize FFA**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Champion Chester Hog
Exhibited by Luke, Will & Graci Sullivan, Smith 4-H/Mize FFA**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Grand Champion/Champ English Steer
Exhibited by Delton & Chase Boone, Raleigh FFA**



**2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Reserve Champion American Steer
Exhibited by Chase & Delton Boone, Raleigh FFA**



2021 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Scholarship Recipients.

L-R: Front row, Alyssa Moak, Lincoln 4-H/Lawrence Co. FFA; Mary Kathryn Shaw, Leflore 4-H; Marley Thornton, Smith 4-H/Raleigh FFA; Savana Ashley, Wilkinson 4-H; Olivia Howell, Holmes 4-H; Jewell Vandevere, Yazoo 4-H; Anna Beth Blackwell, Smith 4-H/FFA; Madalyn Boyd, Lincoln 4-H/West Lincoln FFA; Jessica Fulgham, Leflore 4-H; Abigayle Case, Covington 4-H. Middle row, Kathryn Johnson, Lincoln 4-H; Elizabeth Rone, Panola 4-H/South Panola FFA; Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson; Extension Director Gary Jackson; Tristen Phillipson, Raleigh FFA; Anna Grace Todd, Jones 4-H; Chloe Tolar, Smith 4-H. Back row, Trevor Philips, Lee 4-H; Eli Wilkerson, Scott 4-H; Todd Rogers, Jones 4-H; Davian Powell, Holmes 4-H; Hunter Beason, Neshoba 4-H/Neshoba Central FFA; Holden Lane Brown, Jasper 4-H; Nicholas Beatty, Scott 4-H; Collin Mullins, Montgomery 4-H; Ryan Purvis, Smith 4-H/Raleigh FFA.