



**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. – This year, 1,538 4-H and FFA members across Mississippi participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows, showing 2,262 head of livestock. These students competed for the opportunity to participate in the 53rd annual Sale of Junior Champions. The Sale of Junior Champions, one of the highlight events of the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, 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 Sale of Junior Champions is a tradition like no other that provides our youth the opportunity to develop showmanship and life skills,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “I am so proud of all the students from across the state who worked hard all year to raise these animals and participate in the 2022 Dixie National livestock shows. We are pleased to announce that this year’s sale was the largest monetary sale in our history, and I want to thank all those that made this event a successful and record-breaking year. Congratulations to all of our winners and scholarship recipients.”

During the Sale of Junior Champions, several student members of the Sunflower County 4-H organization were recognized for their achievements. Kathryn Chism, Grand Champion of the Hampshire Hog and Mississippi Bred Barrow Shows; and Emma Grace and Lily Putnam, Reserve Champions of the Division 4 Mississippi Bred Lamb Show, participated in the sale.

The final Sale of Champions featured 46 champion market animals, including 15 hogs, 12 goats, 10 lambs and nine steers. The preliminary total sale was \$448,500, breaking the previous record by more than \$40,000. The Sale of Champions Promotion Committee raised \$61,500 in scholarships, including numerous \$1,500 scholarships for high school senior exhibitors. This year, scholarships were awarded to 39 student participants of the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows.

For more information and a full event schedule on the 57th Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, visit www.dixienational.org, download the mobile app, “like” the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo on Facebook or call 601-961-4000.

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Photos attached.



**2022 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Grand Champion/Champion Hampshire Hog
Exhibited by Kathryn Chism, Sunflower 4-H.**



**2022 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Champion MS Bred Barrow
Exhibited by Kathryn Chism, Sunflower 4-H.**



2022 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Res Champion Division 4/MS Bred Res Champion Division 4 Lamb Exhibited by Emma Grace & Lily Putnam, Sunflower 4-H.