



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

For February 7, 2019

**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
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Who: Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson

What: Press Conference to Kick-Off the 50th Sale of Junior Champions

**When: Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
Press Conference takes place prior to the Sale of Junior Champions,
which begins at 11:30 a.m.**

**Where: Mississippi Trade Mart on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds
East Meeting Room**

The media is invited to attend as Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson kicks off the 50th Annual Sale of Junior Champions with a press conference on Thursday, February 7, at 11:00 a.m. at the Mississippi Trade Mart. The Sale will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Trade Mart. Commissioner Gipson will be joined by Dr. Gary Jackson, Director of the Mississippi State University Extension Service; Dakota Murphree, Mississippi FFA President; and Noel Daniels, Chairman of the Sale of Junior Champions Committee.

This year marks 50 years of the Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions. The Sale of Junior Champions is one of the highlight events of the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo. This year 1,500 4-H and FFA members participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Show showing 2,300 head of various livestock including pigs, sheep, cattle, and goats. The Junior Round-Up participants winning Champion and Reserve Champion for their market animals have the opportunity to sell their livestock for top dollar at the Sale of Junior Champions auction. Last year, the sale of 43 winning animals grossed \$344,778. In addition, 37 scholarships were presented to 4-H and FFA members totaling \$58,000. Over the past 49 years, the sale has grossed over \$6.89 million.

The Sale of Junior Champions helps students earn money for college, as well as helps them to develop a wide host of skills. The youth participating in the livestock show spend months raising and caring for their livestock teaching them the value of hard work and responsibility.

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