



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Miss Hospitality Presents Dixie National Parade Awards to Participants from Covington, Hinds, Madison, Smith, and Scott Counties

JACKSON, Miss. — Today, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson and the First Lady of Agriculture Leslie Gipson led the 2020 Dixie National Parade through Downtown Jackson. Immediately following, Mississippi's own Miss Hospitality, Kasey Pearson from Monroe County, presented parade awards to the winning participants at the Mississippi Farmers Market.

“The Dixie National Rodeo Parade is a fun-filled family event that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce looks forward to bringing to the public each year,” said Commissioner Gipson. “This would not be possible without the participation of groups from all over the state. I want to thank all those that made it a success and congratulate all of our winners.”

Selected judges chosen by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce determine the best participating groups representing each of five categories: marching, motorized, floats, riding and wagon trains, as well as the overall champion who wins the Commissioner's Award.

For best marching group, Mendenhall High School Band won first place, and Hinds Community College Hi-Steppers won second place. For best motorized club, Central MS Antique Tractor Association from Morton won first place, and Deep South Military Vehicle Club from Jackson won second place. For best float in the 2020 Dixie National Parade, Natchez Trace Stables, LLC from Canton was awarded first place, and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was awarded second place. For best riding club, Dixie National Queens and Sweethearts was awarded first place, and Devonshire Farm from Flora was awarded second place.

The Mississippi Wagon Trains, which famously march at the end of the procession, were also presented awards by Miss Hospitality Kasey Pearson. First place went to the Wesson Ride, second place went to the Smith County Ride, and third place went to the Mount Olive Ride.

The Commissioner's Award was presented last. This annual award is given to the best overall participating parade group from the entire line-up. The winner of the 2020 Dixie National Parade Commissioner's Award was Wesson Ride.

Events of the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo continue through Sunday, February 16. Tickets to the rodeo, which runs through Wednesday, February 12, can be purchased at the Coliseum Box Office, Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone 1-800-745-3000.

For more information on the rodeo, concerts and schedules, download the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo mobile app, visit www.dixienational.org, “like” the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo page on Facebook, or call 601-961-4000.

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Photos and outline attached.



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson on his horse Gunsmoke and First Lady of Agriculture Leslie Gipson, riding Moon, led the 2020 Dixie National Parade through Downtown Jackson this morning.



Mississippi's Miss Hospitality Kasey Pearson presented the First Place Award for Best Float to David Hughes and Andrea Pittman of Natchez Trace Stables, LLC in Madison County.



Mississippi's Miss Hospitality Kasey Pearson presented the Second Place Award for Best Wagon Train to Marie Clinton representing the Smith County Ride.



Mississippi's Miss Hospitality Kasey Pearson presented the Third Place Award for Best Wagon Train to Jack Underwood representing the Mt. Olive Ride.



Mississippi's Miss Hospitality Kasey Pearson presented the First Place Award for Best Motorized Club to William Beard of Morton representing the Central MS Antique Tractor Association.