

Spring

(Cont'd. from front page)

Astronomically speaking, the first day of spring is marked by the spring equinox, which falls on March 19, 20, or 21. The equinox happens at the exact moment worldwide, although our clock times reflect a different time zone. And, as mentioned above, this date only signals spring's beginning in the Northern Hemisphere; it announces Fall's arrival in the Southern Hemisphere.

Interestingly, due to time zone differences, there hasn't been a March 21 equinox in mainland United States during the entire 21st century! We won't see a March 21 equinox again until 2101.

Are Day and Night Equal on the Equinox?

Quite close! In reality, day and night are not exactly equal on the equinox. Daytime begins the moment any part of the Sun appears over the horizon and is not finished until the last part of the Sun disappears below the horizon. If the Sun were to shrink to a starlike point—and we lived in a world without air—the spring and fall equinoxes would truly have equal nights.

All that scientific stuff confuses me but here is what this ole country boy knows about spring. The crappie will be biting soon, this year they already are. Remnants of old home places are coming to life with the daffodils blooming around the yard where a home once was, if those bulbs could only talk what could they tell us? The gobblers and the hens are gathering up and the Thunder Chicken is shaking the tree tops early in the mornings. The grass either needs cutting or it soon will and preparations for a garden are being made. And, in 2026 a big clean up is underway from the disaster ice storm Fern left us with. With the longer days comes quiet evenings watching the sun go down from the back



porch with a hint of cool air still around but the assurance that warmer days are on the way.

As spring comes we celebrate the rising of Christ over two thousand years ago and we thank him every day for the blessings we enjoy.

As we enter into a new season we at The Courier wish you well and may God bestow many blessings on each and every one of you

STATE FAIR-GROUNDS, Miss. – This year, 1,152 4-H and FFA members from across Mississippi participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows, exhibiting 1,759 head of livestock. These students competed for the opportunity to participate in the 57th annual Sale of Junior Champions. The Sale of Junior Champions, one of the highlight events of the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, is an auction where livestock exhibitors winning Champion and Reserve Champion in the Junior Round-Up Market Divisions sell their prizewinning animals and where scholarships are awarded.

“Our 4-H and FFA livestock shows continue to be one of the strongest leadership and workforce development programs in Mississippi,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “You don’t have to look far to find the next generation of leaders in our state — just walk through the Livestock Barns and see them in action. These students understand commitment, perseverance and the value of seeing a job through. Each year, the Sale of Junior Champions is made possible through the outstanding partnership and hard work of Mississippi State University’s Extension Service, who works with our Fairgrounds staff to organize and manage these livestock shows during the annual Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo. We are grateful for their continued dedication and investment in Mississippi’s youth, and I congratulate all of this year’s participants in the Sale of Junior Champions.”

During the Sale of Junior Champions, two student members of the Yalobusha County 4-H were recognized for their achievements. Wyitt Hughes was recognized as a 2026 supreme exhibitor and Auston Hughes was awarded a scholarship.

Yalobusha County Youth Recognized at 2026 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions



2026 Supreme Exhibitors L-R: Mason Williams, Hinds 4-H; Will Sullivan, Smith 4-H/Mize FFA; Luke Sullivan, Smith 4-H/Mize FFA; Abby Gipson, Simpson 4-H; Anaston Stevens, New Site FFA/Prentiss 4-H; Carl Taylor, New Site FFA/Prentiss 4-H; Wyitt Hughes, Yalobusha 4-H; Harlee Wilson, Scott 4-H; Eli Perry, Yazoo 4-H; Brooks Saucier, Forrest 4-H; and Lilla Quick, Rankin 4-H.



2026 Scholarship Recipients L-R: Front row, Ava Jacobs, Prentiss 4-H/Wheeler FFA; Hanna Hood, Holmes 4-H; Neely Jordan, Leflore 4-H; Jady Collier, Winston 4-H/Nanih Waiya FFA; Alena O’Conner, Panola 4-H; Emma Neth, Panola 4-H/South Panola FFA; Autumn Hayes, Brooklyn FFA; Karley Watkins, Nanih Waiya FFA; Katelyn Clark, Newton 4-H; Katharine Spacht, Stone 4-H/FFA; Kasey Pigg, Hinds 4-H; Lynden Whitehead, Itawamba 4-H/Tremont FFA; and Morgan White, Oktibbeha 4-H. Back row, Teddy Haffey, Itawamba 4-H; Auston Hughes, Yalobusha 4-H; Hunter Banes, Rankin 4-H/Puckett FFA; Will Ross, Rankin 4-H; Roxie Roberson, Union 4-H; Jimmy Wayne Wilson, Rankin 4-H; Jordan Brooks, Holmes 4-H; John Michael Donahoo, Humphreys 4-H; Cole Mazingo, Forrest 4-H/Brooklyn FFA; Chloe Tucker, Stone 4-H/FFA; Anna Windham, Jones 4-H/NE Jones FFA; and Rylee White, Covington 4-H.

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The 2026 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions marked a significant milestone as the second highest grossing sale ever. Total sales over this unique event’s 57-year history surpassed \$10.6 million this year. In addition, two records were broken at this year’s sale, including the highest price ever paid for a Market Lamb at \$13,500 and the highest price ever paid for a Market Goat at \$25,000.

The final Sale of Junior Champions featured 40 champion market animals, including pigs, sheep, cattle and goats. The 2026 sale total was \$578,050, breaking last year’s record of \$484,010. In addition, scholarships totaling \$85,000 were awarded to 41 Mississippi 4-H and FFA youth participants of the Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows.