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**Melbourne, Naples Community School Prep Runners
Named Florida Dairy Farmers 2009 Cross Country Runners-of-the-Year**

GAINESVILLE (Dec. 21) – Melbourne senior Brian Atkinson and Naples Community School's Kathryn Fluehr were named the 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Runners-of-the-Year following a final round of balloting by a statewide panel of high school cross country coaches. Both Atkinson and Fluehr captured individual state championships.

Atkinson, who was earlier named the Class 4A Boys' Runner-of-the-Year with a time of 15:20 at the state championships, edged out the three other finalists, junior Matt Mizereck (Tallahassee Leon), junior Patrick Swain (Tallahassee Maclay) and senior Colin Barker (Jacksonville Bishop Kenny) to capture the award honoring the top cross country runner in the state.

Fluehr, who was earlier named the Class 1A Girls' Runner-of-the-Year with a time of 16:59 at the state championships, finished ahead of senior Shelby Hayes (Winter Park), junior Stephanie Schappert (Pope John Paul), and sophomore Carly Thomas (Tallahassee Chiles) in the voting to capture the award.

The Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards program exemplifies Dairy Farmers, Inc.'s commitment to the state's youth. While honoring the state's top athletes and coaches in all 26 FHSSA-sanctioned sports for the 18th consecutive year, the program also emphasizes to young people the importance of keeping dairy products a primary part of their diet in their overall nutrition plan.