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recognizing excellence in high school athletics*

## **Clearwater Countryside's Margalis Named 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Girls' Swimmer-of-the-Year**

Gainesville (Jan. 26) --- Clearwater Countryside senior Melanie Margalis was named the 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Girls' Swimmer-of-the-Year following a final round of voting by a statewide panel of high school swimming coaches.

Margalis is the 18<sup>th</sup> winner of the annual award sponsored by Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association to honor the top high school girls' swimmer for the 2009 season.

Margalis broke the state record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:57.07 and won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:42.62 at the Class 3A state championships.

Margalis, who was earlier selected as the Class 3A Swimmer-of-the-Year, finished ahead of Stephanie Peacock of Fort Myers Bishop Verot, the 1A Swimmer-of-the-Year and Alex Merritt of Tallahassee Lincoln, the 2A Swimmer-of-the-Year.

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.