



Submitted photo

Standing in front of the London Bridge from left to right are: Lindsey Rucks, Brittany Watts and Shelby Snowberger. The trio made the grade at the recent International Dairy Judging Competition held in Scotland.

Dairy judging team takes honors

Local student wins international dairy judging competition

Lindsey Rucks of Okeechobee, along with two other Florida teammates, Brittany Watts and Shelby Snowberger recently participated in the 2009 Royal Highland International Livestock Judging Contest in Edinburgh, Scotland. This year marked the 225th anniversary of the Royal Highland and Agriculture Society of Scotland.

The Florida team competed against other 4-H, FFA and post secondary college dairy judging teams representing the U.S. The other states participating were Colorado, Texas, New York, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Ohio. The team from Florida won overall dairy judging competition. Individually, Lindsey Rucks was first overall, Brittany Watts, from Madison, was second and Shelby Snowberger, from Paisley, was third.

After the contest, their journey continued into England, France, Belgium, Lux-

embourg and Germany. They toured many famous sites such as Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, The Eiffel Tower, Reims Cathedral, and many more. The team comments that, "As beautiful as those famous monuments were, it was the beautiful rolling countryside with different varieties of crops growing on them that has us Florida girls in awe!"

In addition, they visited dairy farms and other agricultural production facilities to get a feel of agriculture in other countries. They also stayed with host farm families in Luxembourg for a few days.

This was a once in a lifetime trip that the team earned by placing in the National 4-H Dairy Judging competition held in Madison, Wis. at the World Dairy Expo last fall. At Expo, the Florida team placed first in oral reasons and second overall. They wish to thank all of their family, friends and Florida dairy producers and local businesses that supported their efforts.

The girls have been coached for their entire 4-H careers by Debbie Clements and Gene Holcomb.