

# Chester Weber & Jamaica Donate Platform<sup>®</sup> Horse of the Year Feed to Equine Rescues

Ocala, FL – Jamaica, the Combined Driving horse who was recently named the 2008 Farnam/Platform USEF Horse of the Year, has a story that has captivated the nation. The story of the 18-year-old gelding -- who was rescued from slaughter and now has a silver medal and six national championships on his resume -- is far from over as Jamaica, and his owner Chester Weber, have announced they are donating Jamaica's Horse of the Year prize from Farnam to two different horse rescue organizations.

"The award that Jamaica won is really a victory of the story and therefore he and I wish to give back to those rescue horses who need the support in their battle to the top," Weber said.

Farnam awarded Jamaica with one ton of Platform feed, and Jamaica and Weber are in turn splitting the feed between Pure Thoughts Inc. Horse & Foal Rescue and the Horse Protection Association of Florida. The two rescue organizations are overwhelmed at Jamaica and Weber's "pay it forward" donation and both believe Jamaica's story will go a long way in raising awareness of rescue horses everywhere.

"We are so grateful that Jamaica and Chester have chosen to donate feed to Pure Thoughts Inc. Horse & Foal Rescue. We currently have 100 horses in our care and this will help immensely," said Jennifer Swanson of Pure Thoughts. "Chester has shown the world that the horses going to slaughter are good quality horses. Maybe it will encourage someone who is looking for their next horse to think of a rescue horse. Thank you Jamaica and Chester, you have helped on so many levels."

Morgan Silver, the Executive Director of the Horse Protection Association of Florida, echoed Swanson's sentiments, adding that many horses will be given a new chance at life thanks to Jamaica and Weber's generous donation.

"The Horse Protection Association of Florida is honored to have been chosen to receive a donation of Farnam Platform Feed won by Jamaica for his Horse of the Year Award. Once an unwanted horse, Jamaica is now helping other horses who faced a fate similar to his," Silver said. "The donation of feed will help horses who have been rescued from neglect, starvation and abandonment. Our heartfelt thanks to Jamaica and Chester for this very generous gift."

The rescue organizations aren't the only ones pleased with the fact that Jamaica, a horse who found his true calling in life as a Four-In-Hand Combined Driving horse, will be donating his prize to other horses who also once faced a "death row" existence but now have the chance to become superstars. "The decision to donate the feed prize to Pure Thoughts and the Horse Protection Association is very generous and very much in line with the spirit of this award," said Farnam's Chris Jacobi, Senior Vice President, Equine Products.

"Jamaica and Chester are worthy champions and an inspiration which will give this award a lot of credibility."

Farnam has been associated with the Horse of the Year for four years and Jacobi said the award was created to showcase the very essence of the relationship and respect we share with our horses. "Not only does it recognize the best of the best in their respective breeds and disciplines but also demonstrates how resilient and forgiving our partners are and that they are willing to go the extra mile for us when we give them the proper care, right management and love," Jacobi said. "Jamaica exemplifies this kind of attitude in the best possible way and is therefore the well deserved winner of this year's award."

Jacobi added that Farnam's mission of "Making Life better for Horses and their People" is a natural fit for Jamaica and Weber. Jacobi isn't the only one to think so, as evidenced by the standing ovation Jamaica received at the USEF Annual Convention when his name was announced as winner of Horse of the Year, the highest honor in the horse industry. An emotional Weber accepted the award, truly moved by the fact that a simple bay gelding could have traveled from the streets of Belgium, to a silver medal and six national championships and then into the hearts of so many horse fans across the country.

"More than a decade ago when Jamaica was on his way to the slaughterhouse no one could have predicted he would be named the 2008 Farnam/Platform USEF Horse of the Year," Weber said. "It's been a real honor to share this journey with an unbelievable horse."

For more information on Pure Thoughts Horse Inc. Horse & Foal Rescue, or to make a donation to their program, please visit their website at [www.purethoughtshorserescue.com](http://www.purethoughtshorserescue.com). For more information on the Horse Protection Association of Florida, or to make a donation to their program, please visit their website at [www.hpaf.org](http://www.hpaf.org).



*Photo: Morgan Silver, (left) the Executive Director of the Horse Protection Association of Florida, accepts the feed donation from Farnam Platform Regional Manager Charlie Paschal (center) and Combined Driver Chester Weber, owner of Jamaica - the USEF Farnam/Platform Horse of the Year. Weber and Jamaica donated Jamaica's feed prize from Farnam to the Horse Protection Association of Florida and Pure Thoughts Inc. Horse & Foal Rescue. (Photo courtesy of BlueCentaur.com)*