

## *Chester Weber and Jamaica Pucker Up*

# **Chester Weber and Jamaica Kiss and Tell In The “Kiss the Horse for Literacy” Campaign**

Ocala, FL –Combined Driver Chester Weber and his famous horse Jamaica will soon kiss and tell in the Marion County Literacy Council’s “Kiss the Horse for Literacy” campaign. Weber is a contestant in the campaign designed to raise money and increase literacy awareness and Jamaica is the lucky horse that will receive a kiss from the winner.

Weber and 12 other prominent Ocala community leaders will pucker up for the campaign and the candidate who raises the most kisses – each dollar raised equals one kiss – will get the joy of an up-close-and-personal moment with Jamaica, the 2008 Farnam/Platform USEF Horse of the Year.

“Many of our sister cities have a Kiss the Pig campaign, but we went with a horse since Ocala is the Horse Capital of the World,” said Karen Hill, Executive Director of the Marion County Literacy Council. “We were also looking for a horse of merit to be the recipient of the kiss, and we are thrilled that Jamaica is the horse.”

No word on how excited Jamaica is about his upcoming smooch, but the celebrity horse that has captured the



attention of the nation never seems to back down from a challenge. Along with his equine teammates, and Weber of course, Team Weber is the leading force in Combined Driving in the United States having won the National Championships in Four-In-Hand Combined Driving an amazing six consecutive years in a row. Weber was also the first American to win an individual medal in the Four-In-Hand World Driving Championships in The Netherlands.

Now Weber is hoping to win kisses and will encourage his fans to donate money to the literacy campaign. “The mission of the Marion County Literacy Council is to increase literacy awareness and improve the reading skills of adults through a volunteer reading program,” Weber said. “I am truly supportive of their mission and happy to take part in the campaign. Hopefully I can help raise enough money that I will even get to kiss my own horse.”

The goal of the “Kiss a Horse for Literacy” campaign is to raise \$15,000. “We will have a Kiss Off on August 7 at the Ocala Breeders Sales and all of the candidates will be on hand waiting to find out who raised the most money. Jamaica will be brought in and the winner will be announced and then they will get to kiss Jamaica,” Hill said, adding that kissing Jamaica won’t be a burden because he is so handsome. “Just in case the winner is a little horse shy, they can pass the kiss off to someone else.”

If Weber does capture the kissing victory – and like his horse there aren't many challenges that Weber doesn't conquer – he won't mind a kiss from his best buddy. "Jamaica is a wonderful horse and we have shared a remarkable journey together," Weber said. "Jamaica may prefer carrots, but he won't mind a kiss."

The "Kiss the Horse for Literacy" campaign will kick off on June 3 at the Ocala Breeders Sales and the campaign will run from June 3 to July 30. Each candidate will collect kisses in the form of money and the total will be tallied and the winner announced at the Kiss Off on August 7.

The 13 candidates taking part in the "Kiss the Horse for Literacy" campaign are Weber, Bill Barr, Kelly Wright, Pete Beasley, Roy Duckett, Cory Pool, Dorothy Boylan, Dalis Ramirez, Jaye Baillie, Brenda McDuffee, Dr. Riadh Fakhoury, Tom Warriner and Shawn Girton.

Weber is hoping his fans step up and vote for him, especially since the money goes to a worthy cause. To donate money to Weber's kissing campaign call the Marion County Literacy Council at 352-690-READ (7323) or email Hill at [Karen@marionliteracy.org](mailto:Karen@marionliteracy.org). Money can also be collected and given directly to Weber. To learn more about the Marion County Literacy Council, visit their website at [www.marionliteracy.org](http://www.marionliteracy.org).

*Photo: Kiss The Boy: Jamaica, the 2008 Farnam/Platform USEF Horse of the Year, gives his owner Chester Weber a little smooch. Jamaica will be the recipient of a kiss during the "Kiss the Horse for Literacy" campaign through the Marion County Literacy Council. Weber is a candidate in the campaign and is hoping his fans step up and vote for him by donating money to the literacy fundraiser. (Photo by Warmbloods Today Magazine)*