



PSA/NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2013

***GET READY FOR SOME SHEEP THRILLS!***

**NEWPORT, OR** - Moving herds with sheepdogs dates back centuries and Dr. Ian Caldicott and his wife, Raven O'Keefe who operate Wolston Farms in nearby Scio, Oregon are keen to carry on this long-standing tradition.

The name "Wolston" comes from the small village of the same name in central England where Ian spent his childhood. At an early age, he fell in love with the idea of herding sheep after attending his first sheepdog trial with his parents. "I was fascinated by watching them and always wanted to do it." said Caldicott.

Moving to their farm in Scio in 2001, the pair support themselves by doing what they love; training sheepdogs for their handlers and raising 150 head of sheep for wool. They also host an annual Sheepdog Trial in July, offer educational tours, and sell their own handmade crafts, artwork, and shepherd's crooks. Visitors learn that everyone on the farm has a job to do, including the cats, dogs, chickens and sheep.

For the first time ever, Wolston Farms and their crew of shepherd, sheepdogs and sheep will take center stage at the Family Events Arena at this year's Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games on June 8 & 9, 2013 at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. "We've been trying to organize sheepdog demos here since we started and we are absolutely thrilled to have Ian and his team join our events this year" said Belinda Goody, Executive Director of the festival.

Common herding breeds include the Border Collie, Australian Shepherd, Australian Kelpie, and Australian Cattle Dog. Other breeds with herding instinct include Corgis and Shetland Sheepdogs. Guardian dogs help protect livestock with Maramma, Akbash, Great Pyrenees and Anatolian Shepherds being the most common while the sheepdogs work and manage the flocks. The relationship between dog and sheep is natural and instinctive and the shepherd acts as an intermediary, using traditional commands: come by (go clockwise around the sheep), away to me (counter clockwise) and that'll do (leave work and return).

"But when it comes down to it", Caldicott says, "what defines a dog and its handler in the heat of a trial is not the skill of neither the dog nor the handler. It is more primal than that. I think what draws a lot of people is that, to be successful, the level of relationship that you have to have with your dog is so much more intense than the relationship between you and a household pet," Caldicott said. "It's an understanding of each other that's so much higher. When you love dogs bred for herding, you gain a whole new understanding of dogs and a whole new understanding of yourself."

Ian and Raven will bring three of the farm's six Border Collies named Bear, Maxie and Goose who will demonstrate just how they operate and work the sheep on the farm at regular intervals during the festival, so don't miss this unique exhibition of a time honored cultural tradition at this year's Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games in June.

For additional information about the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games, please visit [www.newportcelticfestival.com](http://www.newportcelticfestival.com) or contact us by e-mail at [info@newportcelticfestival.com](mailto:info@newportcelticfestival.com)

For more information about Wolston Farm, please visit [www.wolston.com](http://www.wolston.com).

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**YOUTUBE** Promotional Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWz3jo6UCYo>

**PHOTOS:** (Below)



Caption: Shepherd Ian Caldicott, PhD poses with (L to R) Bear, Goose and Maxie - Wolton Farm's Border Collies.

Photo Courtesy: Ian Caldicott



Caption: Sheep Herd at Wolton Farm.

Photo Courtesy: Ian Caldicott (web page)



Caption: Max shows his skills in the field with some Shetland and Romney Cross sheep.

Photo Courtesy: Ian Caldicott



Caption: Bear herds a new Shetland lamb and her mom back into the barn.

Photo Courtesy: Ian Caldicott



Caption: Keeping the sheep in line.

Photo Courtesy: Ian Caldicott

Graphic Courtesy: B. Goody

