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Weather Folklore: Part 1

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WEATHER FOLKLORE: PART 1

Throughout the years, people have come up with some interesting ways to try to predict the weather. While it is easy to dismiss this fascinating body of folklore as superstition or hasty generalization, some of the old sayings have stood the test of time. The trick is to separate fact from fiction.

Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailors take warning.

Fact. If the sky is red at sunset, the sun is shining on clouds in the east, which have already moved away. If the sky is red at sunrise, the sun is shining on clouds to the west, which are probably on their way.

Rainbow in the morning gives you fair warning.

Fact. A morning rainbow appears when there is rain to the west, the direction from which bad weather is likely to come.

When halo rings the moon or sun, rain is approaching on the run.

Fact. A strong, obvious halo indicates that the moon or sun is shining through ice crystals at high altitudes. These high ice clouds usually give way to lower rain clouds.

Frost or dew in the morning light, shows no rain before the night.

Fact. Cool, clear weather is necessary for condensation to form.

Short notice, soon to pass; long notice, long will last.

Fact. A sudden thunderstorm is usually associated with a cold front, which quickly moves on its way. A long period of threatening weather usually precedes a warm front, which may take several days to pass by.

Rain before seven, clear by eleven.

Just depends. If the rain is associated with a cold front, this saying will probably hold true. If the rain is associated with a warm front, however, it could last all day.

Michelle Lindsey, author of four books on country living topics, owns and operates Homestead on the Range, an independent publisher dedicated to helping Kansans and others around "flyover country" achieve an abundant country lifestyle. Reprinted with permission. Copyright © HomesteadOnTheRange.com. All rights reserved.



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