Company Name: <u>Superior Waterproofing</u>   <u>Tool Talk #39</u>   Date: <u>11/6/2020</u>

FOLK WISDOM ABOUT WEATHER

Because we take weather so personally, there are many folk sayings about it. Some are absolute hogwash; others are scientifically explainable. Here are some traditional examples, for better or worse:

- Geese (and other migrating birds) fly higher in good weather. True! The higher you go, the lower the air pressure, and migrating birds need altitude.

- Cow's tail to the west, weather the best; cow's tail to the east weather the least. Say what? Cows can't read a compass. But this old proverb is based on science. Animals tend to graze with their backs to the wind. Since an east wind is more likely to bring rain, and a west wind good weather, the cow's tail acts as a furry weather vane.

- The higher the clouds, the better the weather. In general, this has a scientific basis in the fact that clouds float higher when dry air and good barometric conditions prevail--both conditions associated with fair weather.

- When ants run straight, rain is coming; when they scatter, good weather is in store. What? No scientific evidence supports this loopy notion.

- Bees will not swarm before a storm. This is largely anecdotal. Experience shows that bees will swarm whenever they feel like it.

- Crickets chirp faster in warm weather. Unlikely, but true. These little guys, who chirp by rubbing their legs together, are fairly accurate thermometers. Formula: count chirps for 14 seconds, add 40, and you have the local temperature in Fahrenheit. Imagine--someone bothered to figure that out.

- When leaves are backward in the wind, bad weather is coming. Absolutely true. Trees grow in the prevailing (fair-weather) wind. In cyclonic (non- prevailing) wind, leaves are blown against their natural pattern and show their backsides.

  Source: *Discover's 20 Things You Didn't Know About Everything*

(You can still learn something new everyday – Stay SAFE!!)

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