

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF
INFORMATION

PROGRAM.....

CHATS BY THE WEATHERMAN

RELEASE.....

Wed. Oct. 20.

1926

ANNOUNCEMENT: Again tonight we have with us--the Weather Man. The Weather Man's chat, a regular Wednesday feature from this station, comes to us from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Let's see what he has to say this week.

Some time ago a dainty, timid little voice said over the telephone, "Will you please tell me what the weather will be on the seventeenth day of June?"

We thought quickly and inquired gently, "What is it, a wedding?"

"Yes, why-a-a-who told you?"

"Oh, a little bird whispered it to us, so we are prepared to promise you the most glorious of all June days on the seventeenth."

"Oh, thank you so much. Goodbye."

She was gone. We looked at the calendar. It was just one hundred and seventeen days until June 17,--and we salved our conscience with the reflection that although no one is able to correctly forecast the weather on a given day so far in advance that dear little girl will have at least one hundred and sixteen days of pleasurable anticipation.

Riley, the poet-philosopher, wrote, "When it rains, why rain's my choice." Remember then, there is no weather that is altogether bad and devoid of some beneficent results. There are so many different kinds of good weather that folks who can't find some weather they like will, doubtless, never be satisfied here, or in the hereafter.

With climate we can do nothing except to adapt ourselves and our production to what we find it to be. But there's one thing sure, so far as human activity is concerned--Seed time and Harvest shall never fail. The weather may be fickle. It is the perfectly harmonious result of natural laws. Nothing is more certain than the weather, and it will pursue its lawbound course to the end, in spite of the vain effort of Man to exercise control over it.

No, the climate isn't changing. That is, not so that it is noticeable or measurable, for more than 50 years of carefully and accurately kept records and the evidences of history for many centuries.

I wonder how you would like to do a little forecasting? Let me give you some suggestions that will help you read the weather signs.

The first local sign of an approaching storm is usually a steady fall in the barometer and rising temperature. Then the appearance of high Cirrus clouds in the western sky. The wind increases in velocity, becoming east or southeast, The barometer falls more rapidly. Clouds thicken and change to lower form, while at the same time the temperature rises and the humidity increases. Then there is a period of rain or snow with the barometer still falling until it reaches the lowest point.

The beginning of a rise in the barometer is often the first sign that the storm center has passed. About the same time the wind shifts, the temperature begins to fall and the rain ceases. Then the canopy of thick clouds break, showing patches of clear sky. Presently the weather has cleared. In summer, the cooler weather following, marks the termination of a period of hot, sultry weather.

The chances are that whenever we enjoy a fine, clear, cold weather we are under the influence of an area of high pressure. In the winter time "highs" are associated with clear, cold weather, the clear skies favor the radiation of heat from the ground during the long, cold nights and this is intensified if the ground is covered with snow. During the summer "high" are often accompanied by drought and high temperature, until an approaching "low" causes renewed circulation of the air. In an area of high barometer the air is colder than the surroundings, is heavier, and consequently, settles slowly toward the earth's surface.

Storms so far described may not be dangerous in any way and in most instances they are not. Occasionally they cause gales on the lakes and Atlantic Coast and may cause some damage to shipping. As a rule such storms merely produce the ordinary changes from clear to cloudy and rainy, and back to pleasant weather, such as occur every few days.

There are, however, two classes of disturbances in which nature presents to us her severest moods. You've heard of both of them many times,-- Hurricanes and Tornadoes. Hurricanes originate in the tropics. At first they move westward in the prevailing easterly winds called the trades. Gradually they curve to the northeast and then follow the usual path of all low areas. They usually are only a hundred miles or so in diameter and sometimes much less, but being developed over smooth water surfaces, where there is less hindrance to the winds than over land areas, they develop unusual energy. Most of these storms occur during the late summer and early fall.

The Tornado is a very small storm, sometimes only a hundred yards in diameter, and rarely as much as a mile. It is characterized by the presence of a funnel-shaped cloud touching the earth. Nothing except the most substantial structures can withstand the power of a tornado in which the wind, it is estimated, sometimes reaches the tremendous velocity of 400 hundred miles an hour. Fortunately, they are not frequent. The great majority of them occur in the spring of the year and the area affected by any one of them is very small.

But let's not get started on those unpleasant subjects.

Perhaps you won't believe it--that is if you are an almanac reader--but, nevertheless, the forecasts you read in such publications for months or years in advance are pure guess work and quite useless.

Neither does the moon regulate the weather anymore than it does the planting of potatoes or the weaning of calves and babies.

Weather has no concern about our holidays. It doesn't rain oftener on the Fourth of July than on the second or the seventh. It only seems so-- because we remember the Fourth and we are patriotic Americans, while the other days have no special significance. Easter weather is not any different from the other days in the period in which it occurs.

Robins and other birds and animals are no better weather prophets than the goosebone or the groundhog, but like farmers and sailors they know from experience certain local signs which presage storm conditions a few hours in advance and they are all fooled sometimes.

ANNOUNCEMENT: This concludes the Weather Man's Chat. You will hear from him again at this time next Wednesday. If you have any special questions to ask the Weather Man, direct them to this station and they will be forwarded to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, under whose auspices this program is given.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010