

Scientifically Sound Weather Superstitions

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

brewing pronounced rumination frigid have a leg to stand on

1. Using crickets as thermometers.

The repertoire of crickets runs deep and comprises tunes suited to every occasion, from attracting mates to announcing danger. But did you know that their chirping also bears a direct relation to air temperature? Crickets chirp faster in warmer conditions and more slowly as the air turns more 7)_____. In some species, aka the "thermometer cricket," chirp rate and temperature share a strikingly direct and linear relationship. In other species, the connection is less 8)_____, but the rule generally works. Indeed, research has shown that you can calculate air temperature by counting nearby cricket clicks and entering them into a simple formula. For Celsius, count the number of chirps in 25 seconds, divide by 3, and then add 4.



2. Cows lying down means wet weather is on the way.

Cows have a long history as weather predictors. One superstition claims that a cow lies down when rain is coming. Given that cows lie down for a variety of reasons, it's tempting to dismiss this claim as utterly ridiculous, but further 3)_____ suggests that it might 4)_____ after all. The reason? There is one study that showed that cows tend to stand longer when the weather is hot as they try to spread the heat all over their bodies, while a seated cow implies cooling weather or a storm 5)_____.

