MARCH 2022 WEEKLYREADER \#4

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Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning.
(A more common variation, "shepherd" is replaced by "sailor")

A red sky - in the morning or evening - is a result of high pressure air in the atmosphere trapping particles of dust or soot. Air molecules scatter the shorter blue wavelengths of sunlight, but particles of dust, soot and other aerosols scatter the longer red wavelength of sunlight. At sunrise and sunset, the sun is lower in the sky causing the sunlight to travel through more of the atmosphere so scattering more light. This effect is further enhanced when there are at least some high level clouds to reflect this light back to the ground.
When weather systems move from west to east, a red sky at night indicates that the high pressure air (and better weather) is westwards In the morning the light is eastwards, and so a red sky then indicates the high pressure (and better weather) has already passed, and an area of low pressure is following behind.

## WEATHER WORDS

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SNOW
RAIN
SUNSET
FREEZE
CLOUDY
BREEZE
HEAT INDEX
COLD
FOG
OVERCAST WINDY
DRIZZLE
TORNADO
DRY
SUNRISE
FROST
THUNDER
HUMID


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## (Weather Lore...CONT'D FROM PG 1)

## Lion and Lamb

An English proverb describes typical March weather:
In the 19th century it was used as a prediction contingent on a year's early March weather:
If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.

There are weather lore around February 2, known as Candlemas, Brigid's Day, or St. Blaise's Day.
One French lore says that if it rains on Candlemas there will be forty more rainy days:
Groundhog Day, observed in the U. S. and Canada, also falls on February 2 and is thought to derive from the Candlemas weather lore in Europe, particularly the German which features the badger as the predictor. An example of such German weather rhyme translates as:

If the badger is in the sun at Candlemas, he will have to go back into his hole for another four weeks.
There are also French counterparts. One for Saint-Vallier in Lorraine states:

If it is fair weather on Candlemas,
the bear returns to its cave for six weeks.

## Cows in pasture

"When cows are lying down in a field, rain is on its way" may not be a scientific prediction, and yet animal behavior at times of changing pressure systems makes for interesting theories. Are cool updrafts or the hovering of flies on their bellies a factor?
A cow with its tail to the West makes the weather best,
A cow with its tail to the East makes the weather least
Cows prefer not to have the wind blowing in their faces, and so typically stand with their backs to the wind. Since westerly winds typically mean arriving or continuing fair weather and easterly winds usually indicate arriving or continuing unsettled weather, a "cowvane" is as good a way as any of knowing what the weather will be up to for the next few hours.

