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SHERIDAN'S CLARA HOOVER: IT COULD BE A THREE-BLIZZARD WINTER

SHERIDAN, IND.--She didn't use a persimmon this year to prognosticate the upcoming winter, but Sheridan's Clara Hoover honed in on the 13 fogs she charted in August to prepare the public to get ready for 13 snows. And Clara was impressed by the incidence of black wooly worms that indicate the weather will constantly deliver a good dose of snow, cold air, wet spells and blizzards. She listed three blizzards.

Hoover, who has long-practiced the folk sciences to beat the television meteorologists and their fancy computer modeling, admitted that there would be wet spells during a few mild times this coming season. She also cautioned farmers that the amount of moisture could have crop impact.

"After we picked up the weathercast for this winter, we had lively discussions about long-johns, boots, umbrellas and how much snow clearance was going to be needed on S.R. 38 if Clara's read is on target," reported Jim Pickett, executive director, Sheridan Historical Society. "Knowing Clara, I'd say we must be prepared to deal with some ice as those wet spells might mix with the cold. She is really good at getting it right."

Hoover, a charter member of the Sheridan Historical Society, has been folkcasting the local weather for years, and her instincts are more often right than wrong. She often uses the shapes found inside the seeds of persimmons, but felt the wooly worms and fogs should take main stage in the Winter 2009-2010 forecast.

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