

DUST BOWL HUMOR

It is the kind of humor that ignores a tragedy; it is a survivor's humor

Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl by Albert Marrin

- 1) The duster was so bad, the birds had to fly backward to keep the dust out of their eyes.
- 2) The dust got so thick that the prairie dogs had to burrow ten feet in the air.
- 3) I sure hope it rains before my kids grow up. They ain't ever seen rain before.
- 4) You know a dust storm is coming when sidewinders (rattlesnakes) begin to sneeze.
- 5) Did you hear about the pilot who parachuted from his plane in a dust storm, only to rake six hours to shovel his way to the ground.
- 6) Did you hear about the farmer who went to the banker for a loan, only to see his land blowing past the window?
- 7) A tourist from the east asked a Kansas wheat farmer where he could find the Dust Bowl. The farmer's answer was simple. Just stay where you are and it will come to you.

Disaster: Natural and Man-Made Catastrophes Through the Centuries by Brenda Z. Guiberson pages 154-156

- 8) There's a sure fire way to tell how hard the wind is blowing. First, tie a chain to a tree. If the chain blows out straight, the day is calm. If it cracks like a whip, a heavy breeze is blowing. If it snaps to pieces and the tree comes out by the roots, it's gone past being a duster and it's a tornado.
- 9) A man was struck by a drop of water and he fainted. It took two buckets of sand to revive him.
- 10) Here's how you tell the changing season in Kansas. We get a half day of calm between the Spring Dust Storms and the Summer Dust Storms, and then we get a day and a half of calm between the Summer Dusts and the Fall Dusts.
- 11) Did you hear about the farmer who was very proud of the grove of locust trees beside his field? He looked out after last Saturday's dust storm and it had become a small pile of fence posts.

- 12) Our last pig was a bit skinny. We ate everything but the squeal.
- 13) A sandstorm in which the flying particles do not achieve the size of small hen eggs is not a genuine Texas sandstorm, but just an imported variety.
- 14) Saw an ad in the paper –For Sale –real genuine rainwater. This Kansas specimen has been specially imported and bottled in our own plant.
- 15) A Panhandle sandstorm will turn a chicken’s feathers wrong side out quicker than a housewife can pluck it for dinner.
- 16) Nothin’ worse than mixin’ dust with a snowstorm. We call that a “snuster.”
- 17) My dad used to walk the floor when those dust storms were blowing and say, “There’s a lot of real estate exchanging hands today!”
- 18) My uncle will be along pretty soon. I just saw his farm go by.
- 19) A number of signs signal the 4th of a drought. Of course, rain is one of them.
- 20) When you gits down to your last bean, your backbone and your navel shakes dice to see which gits it.
- 21) Next week is Russian Thistle Week. Eat your tumbleweeds—dry as cotton, prickly as cactus, and about as tasty as dirty twigs.

The Dust Bowl: Through the Lens by Martin W. Sandler, pages 80-83

- 22) Last year we said things can’t go on like this, and they didn’t. The got worse.” Will Rogers
- 23) Did you know that the farmers in Kansas are now having to pay taxes in Texas because that’s where their farms have blown.
- 24) The fish in Kansas are now wearing goggles to keep the duct out of their eyes.
- 25) Did you hear about the Dust Bowl motorist who suddenly encountered a 10-gallon hat perched upon a dust drift. When the motorist lifted the hat he found a face staring at him. “Can I help you in some way?” the motorist asked. “Give you a ride into town maybe?” “Thanks,” replied the buried man, “but I’ll make it on my own. I’m on my horse.”