

Stripes say Cold Winter ahead

Written by

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According to Armstrong, it's going to be a cold winter. Armstrong, woolly worm of 11-year-old Olivia King of Raleigh, outpaced 1,400 other worms Saturday.

King earned \$1,000 for her efforts. Armstrong won the honor of proclaiming the official winter weather forecast at the 30th annual Woolly Worm Festival in Banner Elk.

According to Mr. Woolly Worm himself, Roy Krege, winning worms have an 85 percent accuracy rate.

It's all about the stripes. The 13 stripes on the worms are said to predict the severity of the coming winter. Brown stripes point towards mild weather, while black stripes mean cold and snowy weeks.

According to Armstrong's stripes, the first four weeks of winter should be cold and snowy. The 5th and 6th weeks will be cold and weeks 7 and 8 will be cold with a light snow. Weeks 10 and 11 will bring a mild spell. Winter will end in weeks 12 and 13 cold and snowy.