

# Agri Beef to buy Easterday tractors, other equipment

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

YAKIMA — Agri Beef Co. has offered \$1 million for trucks, tractors and other rolling stock at a former Easterday feedlot, as Cody Easterday and his family's bankrupt companies begin to sell hundreds of pieces of equipment at more than a half dozen locations.

Easterday Ranches has filed a motion asking bankruptcy Judge Whitman Holt in Yakima to approve the sale unless someone comes in with a better offer at a hearing Aug. 10.

Agri Beef's offer exceeds the appraised value of the equipment by more than \$250,000.

The Boise-based company, doing business as AB Livestock, bought the Franklin County cattle-feeding facility, known as North Lot, for \$16 million in January, but leased it back to Easterday to operate.

Easterday Ranches filed for bankruptcy in February. Cody Easterday pleaded guilty in March to defrauding Tyson Foods and another company of \$244 million. The last day Easterday had cattle on the lot was mid-June, according to court records.



The former Lost Valley Farm outside Boardman. Cody Easterday's name remains on the permit for the confined animal feeding operation at site, while his family's bankrupt companies sell off hundred of pieces of equipment.

Easterday owes Agri Beef \$99,389 for unpaid rent, a sum that will be subtracted from the \$1 million sale, according to court records.

A court-approved appraiser, Hyperams LLC, valued 32 pieces of equipment at North Lot at \$771,900. The firm estimated selling the equipment could net \$645,500 after marketing expenses.

Hyperams also will appraise equipment at other

Easterday properties.

Cody Easterday billed Tyson and the other company for buying and feeding cattle that didn't exist, according to prosecutors. Easterday used much of the money to cover losses in cattle futures contracts.

In a plea deal, Easterday agreed to pay restitution, including \$233 million to Tyson. He is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 5 in U.S. District Court for Eastern

Washington on one count of wire fraud. He also faces civil charges filed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

On Wednesday, July 21, Judge Holt signed an order approving the sale of several Easterday farms in Benton County to Farmland Reserve Inc. for \$209 million. The order affirmed an agreement that Easterday company lawyers reached July 14 with two large creditors, remov-

ing objections that threatened to delay the transaction.

Farmland Reserve, owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, does business in Washington as AgriNorthwest. It will buy from the Easterdays the Cox Farm, River Farm, Nine Canyon Farm, Goose Gap Farm, Farm Manager House and a storage complex.

The acquisition will add 18,000 acres, including 12,000 irrigated acres, to

AgriNorthwest's land holdings in the Columbia Basin.

The Easterday company will lease the farms from AgriNorthwest to harvest wheat and sell equipment by Oct. 31, according to court records.

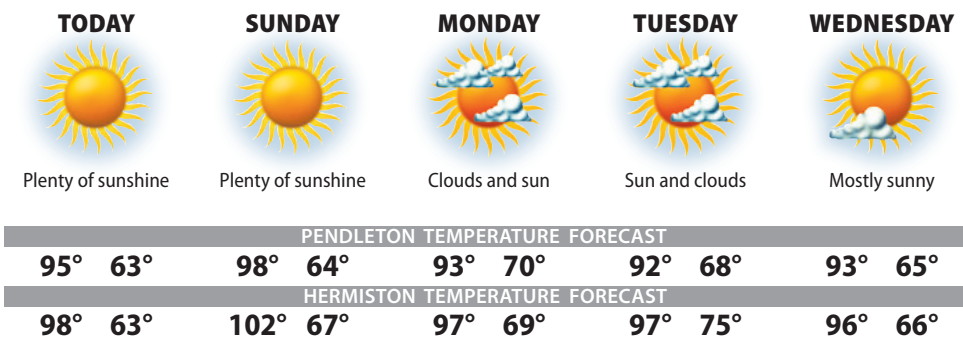
Proceeds from selling the farms and equipment have yet to be allocated among creditors and Easterday family members.

The Easterday companies listed \$142.2 million in liabilities in a court filing in April. The liabilities do not include potential restitution to Tyson and the other company.

Cody Easterday's name still is listed as the operator of Easterday Farms Dairy on its confined animal feeding operation, or CAFO, permit, for the former Lost Valley Farm near Boardman. The CAFO was previously submitted to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Quality.

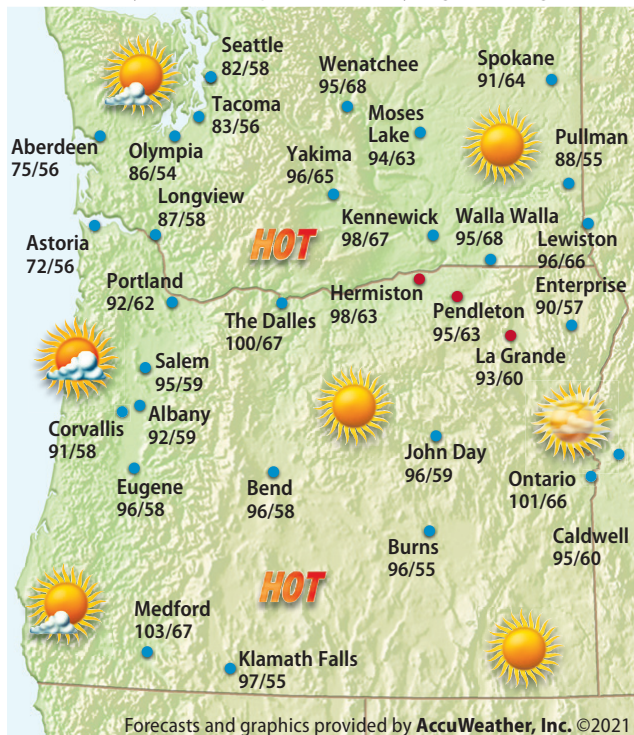
Cody Easterday's son, Cole Easterday, has since taken over as manager of Easterday Farms Dairy LLC after purchasing his father's interest in the business. But according to Oregon state law, the name listed on the CAFO application must be the owner or operator of the facility.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



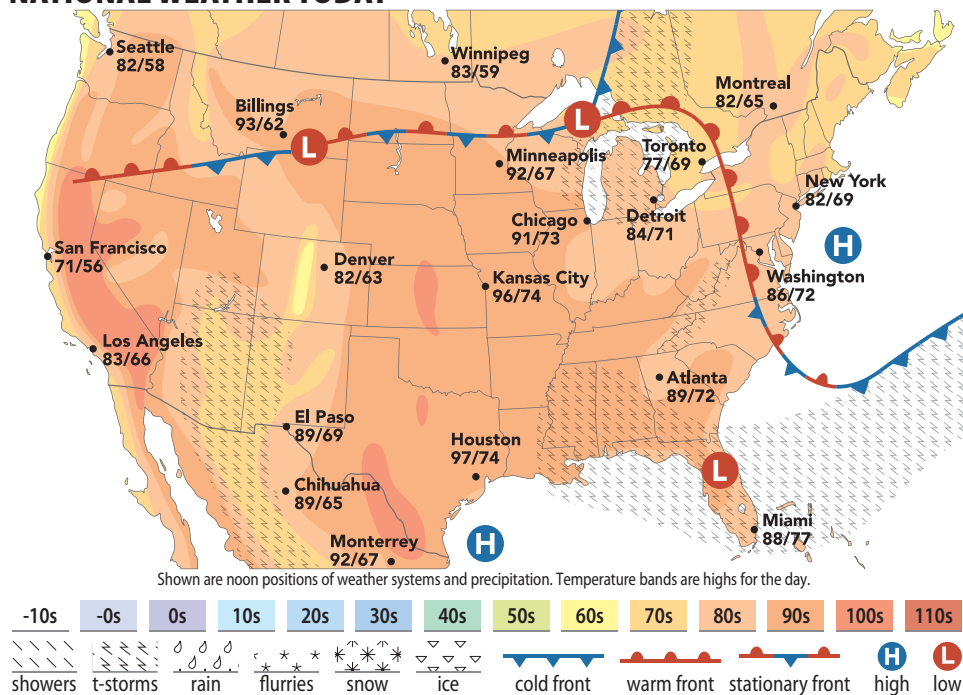
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	87°	53°	
Normals	92°	60°	
Records	111° (1928)	41° (1924)	
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"		
Month to date	Trace		
Normal month to date	0.28"		
Year to date	4.34"		
Last year to date	8.63"		
Normal year to date	8.23"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	88°	59°	
Normals	95°	60°	
Records	108° (1959)	41° (1934)	
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"		
Month to date	Trace		
Normal month to date	0.09"		
Year to date	1.93"		
Last year to date	1.66"		
Normal year to date	5.11"		
WINDS (in mph)	Today	Sun.	
Boardman	E 3-6	WSW 4-8	
Pendleton	NW 4-8	WNW 6-12	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:30 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:33 p.m.		
Moonrise today	9:35 p.m.		
Moonset today	5:47 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
July 31	Aug 8	Aug 15	Aug 22

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 107° in Blythe, Calif. Low 34° in Meacham, Ore.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Invasive tree of heaven more like a tree of hell for some

By MIA RYDER-MARKS  
Capital Press

PENDLETON — In the late 1700s, the tree of heaven plant was introduced to the U.S. by horticulturists who sought it out as a unique ornamental tree.

While the tree may be handsome and provide shade in the summer heat, it also is highly invasive in urban, agricultural and forested regions and can create environmental impacts by blocking out other plants, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Pest Risk Assessment.

"It's an alley cat tree; it can stand pollution, and drought. It's quite successful in all kinds of environments," said Patrick Breen, an emeritus appointment at Oregon State University.

Though it can be found in nearly every state, it is mainly seen in Oregon and neighboring states, and in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where it was originally planted as a ornamental tree.

In Oregon, it is most commonly found from Hood

River County to Umatilla County near the Columbia River and along fence rows and in forest openings, according to OSU.

A single tree of heaven, otherwise known as Ailanthus altissima, has male and female trees. Breen said the female trees can produce up to 300,000 seeds yearly that are distributed by wind and water.

"In other words, it's a seed producer and it can throw those seeds 330 feet. They're fairly heavy seeds, and they're not small," Breen said.

The tree gets its name from its height. It outgrows native trees, dominating the sunlight. It can grow as tall as 80 feet but usually averages 25-50 feet tall, depending on the location, according to ODA.

Tree of heaven can be identified by its compound leaves on which lots of quill-shaped leaflets are attached. The bark is smooth and brownish-green. If the bark is broken, it releases a foul smell, almost like a soured peanut butter odor.

Tree of heaven also can

prevent other vegetation from growing around it by releasing chemicals through its roots.

The plants also also primary hosts for the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect that can kill other trees, grapevines, apple trees, hops vines and other species by leaving a sticky sap on their base and making it more susceptible to other plant diseases and insects.

The trees have impacts on the timber industry as well. They can outgrow native trees in some regions, but they are worthless as timber because they have no structural or burn value.

As they have an extensive root system and the ability to resprout rapidly, the tree of heaven is challenging to control, said OSU.

Cutting or mowing them is ineffective and can make the situation worse as the tree will respond to cutting by sending up dozens of sprouts and root suckers, further spreading the plant.

Hand pulling young seedlings is possible when the soil is moist, but the entire root system must be removed.

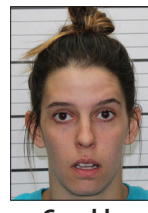
## IN BRIEF

### Sheriff's office makes drug warrant arrest

JOHN DAY — A woman with drug warrants is out of jail after being arrested Wednesday, July 21, because Ohio would not extradite her.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office arrested Ailene Capaldo, 27, on outstanding warrants out of Wayne County, Ohio, at about 4 p.m. according to a press release from Sheriff Todd McKinley.

"The warrants were drug manufacture-related, and Capaldo was to be considered armed and dangerous," McKinley said in



Capaldo

the release.

However, Capaldo was released July 22 because Ohio would not extradite, Grant County Jail Sgt. Josh Wolf said.

Capaldo, whose listed address is on Harper Creek Road in Mount Vernon, was located in response to a parking complaint on the road, McKinley said.

McKinley encouraged the public to report suspicious activity.

—EO Media Group

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