

# From Our Readers...

## More Accolades: Loon Lake Gutters

I can't say enough good things about Joe Blakemore and his company, Loon Lake Gutters. He does terrific work at a most reasonable price. When I had an addition added and need my gutters modified, I called Joe and asked him to stop by when he was over this way. I never expected him to show up when it was 17 degrees and promptly accomplish the task so cheap, I couldn't believe it.

If anybody needs seamless gutters installed, I don't think you could do better than Joe and Loon Lake Gutters.

Call 509-481-8616 and he's on Angies list too.  
-Earl Mixey,  
Fruitland, WA

## Omnibus Bill

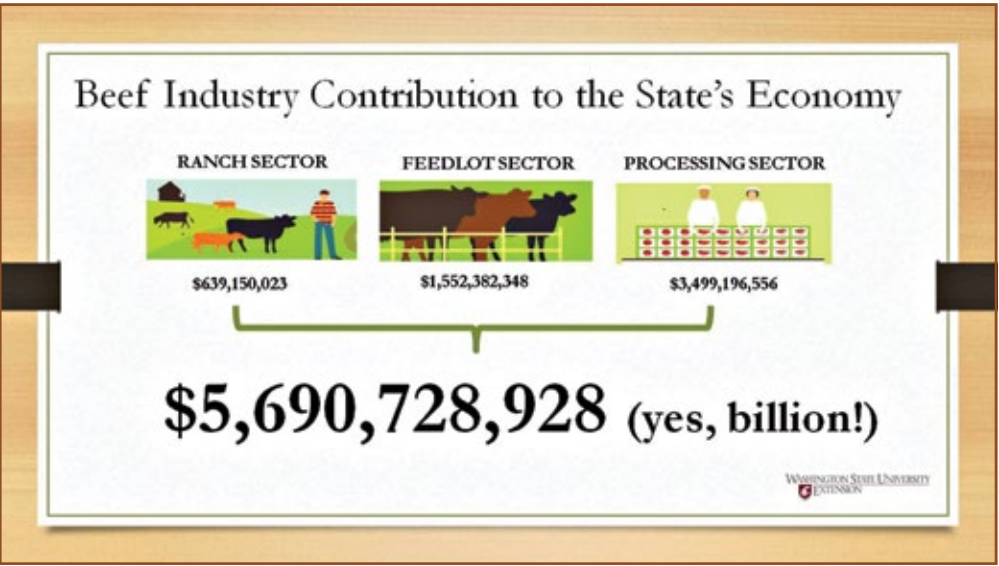
I would urge voters to go to PBS.org/Frontline and watch the 45 minute video "Escaping ISIS". It documents what ISIS does to non believers and that women, as young as 9 years old, tell how they are gang raped.

The Omnibus Bill the Republicans just voted to support, has authorization to bring 300,000 muslim (terrorists?) into the US and \$1.5 Billion to feed, cloth, house, and provide medical care, while US Vets have to wait 90 days just to get a doctor appointment. But none of this appears to concern Congressman Dan Newhouse or Cathy McMorris Rodgers. They all voted for the Omnibus Bill.

-William Riley,  
Soap Lake, WA

## The 2014 Economic Impact of The Beef Industry to Washington State

Although the beef industry is widely recognized as an important agricultural commodity, few studies exist evaluating its overall economic importance to the state of Washington. Washington State University's School of Economics recently conducted a study to evaluate the economic contribution of Washington's beef industry to the state economy for 2014. This study provides a comprehensive review of the structure of the beef industry in Washington tracing through the stages of production from raising cattle on cow-calf ranches and in feedlot operations, to cattle processing in slaughter plants in Washington.



### Major study findings:

In 2012, there were approximately 9,139 beef cow-calf operations in the state, with 65% of those having an inventory of less than 10 beef cows, and only 2.8% having an inventory of more than 100 beef cows.

In 2014, the beef industry in Washington State was ranked the sixth largest agriculture commodity in the state by value of production.

The 2014 Washington cattle production inventories based on the most current USDA reports were 209,000 calves produced, 488,000 finished feedlot

steers and heifers sent to slaughter, and 1,072,000 head of cattle slaughtered.

USDA data on beef cow inventory shows that the U.S. herd peaked at 39.229 million head in 1982 and declined to 29.085 million head in 2014, a 26% decline. Comparatively, Washington's decline from its peak inventory in 1984 to the current inventory in 2014 is a 52% decline, approximately double the rate of decline of the U.S. herd level.

For 2014 the direct total output for the cow-calf sector was \$324.7 million dollars. For the feedlot sector it was \$976.6 million dollars. For the packer

sector is was \$2,338 million dollars. The combined beef industry's direct total output is \$3.639 billion dollars.

Direct cattle sales represent only part of the economic contribution of the beef industry. Input-output analysis was used to estimate the indirect and induced effects that result from the beef industries input purchases, labor and profits. The total economic contribution of the beef industry to Washington is \$5.691 billion.

More Information: <http://www.wabeef.org/washingtonstatebeefindustrystatistics.aspx>

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The Peterson Farm Brothers  
Wednesday, 2/3 at 9:00am

Randy Fortenberry  
Prof. of Economics, WSU  
Wednesday, 2/3 at 9:30am

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