

River's Edge Ranch

Our family run rotational regenerative grazing ranch supports not only our family, but multiple other local, county and WA businesses and their employees.

The DOE does a poor job of defining "large," "medium," and "small" CAFO. Being subject to DOE definitions would make ranching nearly impossible and cost prohibitive, where current inflation and costs already have narrow profit margins.

Will the DOE consider confining animals for safety a "CAFO"? Note due to WA poorly controlled predator issue and regulations, animals must be confined for their safety at night and especially during birthing seasons. Another undue pressure on our farmers and ranchers, that has added cost to mitigate or reduce losses incurring large costs to combat with no reimbursement from the state.

Our ranch is located near many water sources and 100-foot setbacks from surface water are burdensome, costly and down right impracticable not to mention has been the subject of frequent attacks on small farmers and landowners in recent proposed laws, to which this is another. Not only would this impact seasonal grazing and the subsequent fire-protection it abides to neighbors including fellow grain farmers who benefit from control of flammable grasses.

35-foot vegetative filter strips/dirt berms to mitigate nutrient leaching are burdensome and costly. Soil tests take weeks to be returned, undercutting the ability to apply nutrients to fields at crucial times, along with post-harvest soil tests with a hard deadline of Oct. 1 are impractical. Farmers and ranchers who are successful at tending to their ground know their ground, area and weather better than any bureaucrat.

We, strongly oppose this rule and urge you to side with farmers and ranchers to the best of our communities, food supply chains and our environment as we ARE the best stewards of the land and rules like this will put our family and small ranchers out of business, especially in an already depressed economy of Eastern Wa.