

## CATTLE-RANCHING – A TIMELINE

Date	Event Summary
1836	The Texans drove out the Mexicans, but kept the <i>vacqueros'</i> cattle-ranching practices.
1846	First cattle trail: Edward Piper drove 1,000 Texas cattle to Ohio.
1850s	The Longhorn cattle brought 'Texas fever'; Missouri and Kansas banned cattle drives.
1861-1865	The Civil War let the Longhorn herds multiply in Texas.
1866	Goodnight and Oliver Loving opened up the Goodnight-Loving Trail to Colorado.
1867	Abilene, on the Kansas Pacific Railroad, became the first major cattle-shipping town. Era of the cattle-drives.
1870-1900	170,000 miles of railroad track was laid, reducing the need for long cattle drives.
1868	Goodnight founded the Rock Canon Ranch in Colorado, showing that ranching on the Plains could be successful
1870s	Heyday of cattle-ranching. John Iliffe – 'Cattle King of the Northern Plains' – owned 15,000 acres of land, controlling (through the Crazy Quilt) 600,000 acres of the open range.
1872-75	Barbed wire was introduced. The 'range wars' with Homesteaders began, over fenced land and cattle-rustling.
1880	Goodnight founded the Panhandle Stock Association to hunt down rustlers; eg Billy the Kid was killed in 1881.
1880	Open range ranching reached its peak, with massive herds on the Great Plains – key factors: supplies to reservations/ refrigerated carriages/ demand in the east.
1881	James Brisbin published: <i>Beef Bonanza on the Plains, or How to Get Rich Quick</i>
1883	Ranchers were overstocking the range; a dry summer killed the grass.
1886-1887	A harsh winter decimated cattle herds, ending the era of open-range ranching.
1889	The Wyoming Stock Growers Association was formed to organize and regulate the cattle industry.
1892	Johnson County War.