

and bunch species, the former distinguishable by the small seed growing on one side, at right angles to the stalk. Over a hundred varieties of grasses with lateral seeds were exhibited at Denver in 1884. The gamma is usually only a few inches high, but with irrigation it attains a height of two feet, and provides better feed than any native grass known. It grows near the mountains; above it on the slopes is the bunch-grass, and below on the plains the buffalo-grass. The snow seldom remains long enough to do harm, and cattle thrive so well on these grasses as to suffer little from a week of starvation. Should the snowfall threaten to continue the animals stampede to sheltered valleys, so that, with advantageous climate and brute sagacity, losses are rare. Of late alfalfa is growing in favor in the irrigated districts

The Mexicans introduced cattle from New Mexico at an early date, and in 1847, St Vrain and Bent brought several thousand head from that country and Texas into the Arkansas valley. Subsequently Maxwell and others established cattle ranches on the streams flowing from Sierra Mojada and on the upper Las Animas. With the influx of miners ranges were occupied in different directions. The nutritive quality of the grasses was strikingly demonstrated in 1859, when A. J. Williams recovered in sleek and fat condition eighteen of his oxen, abandoned the previous year upon an island in the Platte, near Fort Lupton, for lack of fodder. The lesson was not lost, for a few years later he brought 1,500 Mexican cattle to the Platte, and since then importation for fattening became a regular business, latterly on a large scale. In the spring of 1884 the cattle in the state numbered about 1,000,000.

As the industry acquired proportions, laws were issued for the incorporation of companies, for branding, herding, and protecting from disease, and for creating a state board of inspectors. A commissioner was authorized to attend the annual round-ups, and