

## Transcript of Interview with a Cattle Rancher

**Interviewee:** N/A

**Interviewer:** N/A

**Date:** 2021/10/08

**Location (Interviewee):** N/A

**Location (Interviewer):** N/A

**Transcriber:** Taylor Bangerter

### **Abstract:**

A cattle rancher from Montana discusses the effects of the coronavirus on himself, as well as the rural areas that encompassed cattle farming.

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When the pandemic first hit, I was a foreman on a cattle ranch in central Montana. We were a little confused when they first announced that the Coronavirus was a serious issue because that's a known disease in cattle, and there is a vaccine for it. So we didn't we didn't quite understand how it affected humans. And I know when lockdowns first started being in a more rural area, the grocery store shelves were wiped clean within about two days, and it took a while for those shelves to get brought back to normal, especially in rural areas or our food deserts. It's true. I was fortunate enough where I didn't lose my job when the pandemic hit, but a lot of the friends that I had working in the oil fields they were laid off by the 1000s. What—something interesting we did see though was beef prices crash and our ability to actually sell steers to feed lots diminished quite significantly. A lot of processing facilities didn't learn allowed the amount of people...