

kill meat was sliced thin and dried in great quantities, and then pounded fine and stored for later use. Although the supply of buffalo was seemingly inexhaustible, still, there were times when hunting was difficult or impossible. In later years as increasing inroads by hunters and emigrant trails disrupted the movements of the herds, the availability of fresh meat was increasingly unpredictable. Therefore dried meat and some dried vegetable foods were usually kept on hand.

The hunting of buffalo and other large animals was done by men. Individual hunting prevailed when the buffalo were scattered into small herds or bunches, but large, well-organized hunts were made when the animals congregated in very large herds as they did in early summer. Thus every summer the whole tribe participated in a communal hunt immediately following the conclusion of the important tribal religious ceremonies. The tribal hunt was carefully planned by the chiefs, who named one of the military societies to act as police and enforce the hunting rules. The object was to kill as many animals as possible, and as there was danger that small unregulated groups of hunters might frighten away a whole herd, it was necessary to coordinate the activities of all the hunters. Violators of the hunting rules were promptly and severely punished. They could be whipped, have some of their horses killed, and their lodge or other property destroyed. In hunting buffalo men rode fast, well-trained horses and approached the herd at a run. A hunter selected an animal, guided his horse very close to it, and killed it with bow and arrow or with a spear. Most hunters could kill several animals during a hunt. Guns were seldom used in buffalo hunting.

Intertribal warfare was an ever-present feature of life on the Plains. Traditional enemies of the Cheyenne were the Assiniboin, Crow, Cree, Pawnee, and Ute. There were occasional hostilities also with the western Dakota.