

Eight head of cattle dead, two injured in semi accident

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Four of the eight cows dead after an accident west of Wauneta on Thursday, Oct. 24 can be seen in this picture. In total eight cows were killed and two injured. The semi truck that struck the cattle sustained extensive damage, but the driver was uninjured in the accident. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

A semi truck driving west on Highway 6 Thursday, Oct. 24 at 9 p.m. MT struck a small herd of cattle. The driver was uninjured and eight cattle died on scene. Two cows sustained injuries.

Chase County Sheriff Deputy Mike Dukes explained owner/operator Terry Clason with Clason Trucking of Waverly, Neb. was traveling westbound at approximately mile marker 39 on U.S. Highway 6 in his 2007 Peterbuilt truck when he saw an oncoming vehicle.

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Clason told officials he had dimmed his truck's headlights in reference to the oncoming vehicle. At the last moment, Clason saw a small heard of black cattle on the highway.

He told law enforcement officials he had no way to avoid hitting the cattle. Clason's truck struck 10 cattle, killing eight and injuring two. The cattle were owned by Wayne Krausnick of rural Chase County.

Clason did not sustain injuries in the accident, though his semi sustained extensive damage that required it to be towed from the scene.

The other vehicle, driven by Alondra Almanza of Wauneta was not involved in the incident. However, Almanza stated she suffered "quite a shock" when the truck entered her lane in an attempt to avoid the cattle.

Friday morning, the dead cattle were visible on the highway. Some of them appeared to have been thrown as far as 25-30 yards into the north and south ditches.

Law enforcement officials issued no citations.