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Lightning strikes only once, but 52 cows are dead

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — Lightning struck only once but 52 cows are dead at a Uruguayan ranch. The newspaper El Pais reports that the cows had pressed against a wire fence during a storm when the lightning bolt struck in the northern state of San Jose.



In this picture released by the police department of San Jose, some of the 52 cows that were killed by lightning lie along a fence on a ranch in Valdez Chico village near San Jose, Uruguay, Wednesday, October 22, 2008. The cows were killed when lightning hit the wire fence during a fierce storm, according to police. [Agencies]

A photograph released by the San Jose Police Department shows the black and brown cows lying dead in a long row.

The newspaper said Friday that veterinarians at the scene confirmed the cause of the deaths, which happened Wednesday. The veterinarians told the newspaper that cows often crowd around fences to seek protection during storms.

Meteorologist Fernando Torená told the newspaper he wasn't surprised that a single lightning bolt killed so many cows. But he called it "very bad luck."

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