

Law enforcement officers found Dwayne Lawrence, 38, in a corn field northwest of Imperial, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

At a press conference Sunday night, officials said the subject took his own life. Officers heard a gunshot about 7:45 p.m. MDT in the field and later located the body.

Capt. Jim Parrish of the Nebraska State Patrol said they located Lawrence not far from the area where Julie Hanes, 38, of Lincoln walked out of the corn field, unharmed, about 6:25 p.m. MDT.

Imperial Police Chief Rob Browning interviewed Hanes after she was taken to the Chase County Community Hospital. Browning said Lawrence had told Hanes that he planned to kill himself and that she had tried to talk him out of it.

Parrish said the crime scene was still being scoured Sunday night by NSP crime team specialists. He added an autopsy will be conducted and grand jury convened.

Chase County Sheriff Kevin Mueller praised the cooperation between the different agencies that involved nearly 30 law officers.

To follow this story, see this week's Imperial Republican.