

**Obituary of Former state Representative George Teagarden**, as it appeared in the *Sunflower State Journal* on September 7, 2025, written by Brad Cooper.

Former state Rep. George Teagarden, a former state livestock commissioner who served for 14 years in the Kansas Legislature, died Sept. 1. He was 82.

He was first elected in 1980, serving parts of Anderson, Franklin, Linn and Miami counties.

His leadership roles included serving on several key committees, including chair of the House Appropriations Committee.



**George Teagarden**

He was remembered as an advocate for agriculture, education and health care.

"As a Democrat, George was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and was known for his ability to get past partisanship to move policy forward, improving the lives of all Kansans," his [obituary](#) said.

"He will be remembered for his steadfast leadership, his commitment to agriculture, and his service to the people of Kansas. Above all, he will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend."

From 1994 to 2010, Teagarden served as livestock commissioner with the Kansas Animal Health Department.

"Under his leadership, Kansas achieved certification as TB- and brucellosis-free, although he was quick to credit the efforts of cattle producers and the department staff who worked for years to eradicate the diseases," his obituary said.

"He spearheaded the creation of a comprehensive foreign animal disease response plan, ensuring the continued health and safety of the state's livestock industry.

At one point, the Kansas Farm Bureau honored Teagarden with its Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, saying, "It's hard to measure the impact that George Teagarden has had on the lives of Kansas farmers and ranchers, but it is significant."

He was a 1966 graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in animal husbandry.

Teagarden is the father of Matt Teagarden, CEO of the Kansas Livestock Association.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at the La Cygne United Methodist Church.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Schneider Funeral Home in La Cygne, beginning with a Masonic service.

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