

Distinguished Alumnus 2008
SENATOR JOE SWEEDEN
Class of 1981

Pawhuska native Joe Sweeden earned his Associate of Science degree in Animal Science from Northern Oklahoma College and his Bachelor of Science degree in that field from Oklahoma State University (1983).

As Osage County Conservation District Manager (1987-1998), Mr. Sweeden's many accomplishments included establishing Outdoor Classrooms, organizing and conducting Conservation Education Programs and helping to establish the Tallgrass Resource Conservation and Development Area.

Mr. Sweeden was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 2006 after serving in the House of Representatives (1998-2006) where he acted as Democratic Whip. He has worked on numerous committees in both houses and has been an advocate for education, economic development, property rights and rural fire and water districts, among other issues. Named Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Legislator of Year (2002), he is a 2002 graduate of Leadership Oklahoma and a member of the Oklahoma Academy.

Married to the former Sheila Smith, Senator Sweeden remains active in civic, school and church organizations.