



## Wayne LaVerne Kruse

August 24, 1942 - October 21, 2024

Wayne L Kruse 82 of Fort Collins, CO passed away Oct 21, 2024. He was born in Columbus, NE to Dr. N. W. & Ruth Kruse. He grew up in Genoa, NE. and graduated from Genoa High School in 1960 and then from Billings Montana School of Auctioneering. In 1960 he married Joyce Pilakowski and they started their life together in Sterling, CO where Wayne was employed by Sterling Livestock Commission Co. as an auctioneer. They were blessed with 4 great kids - Dan, Tracey, Amy & Chad. For 20 years they lived in Sterling and raised their family there. In 1980 along with The VanBergs (owners of Sterling Livestock) they purchased what is now Centennial Livestock Auction. After a few years, Wayne & Joyce & their 2 older sons were sole owners of the business, which they all ran until 2020 when Wayne finally retired.

Wayne was involved in 4-H when he was young himself and was a 4-H leader when his kids were growing up. He has auctioned many 4-H sales around the region. He was the auctioneer for many CSU – Ducks Unlimited – and Respite Care Auctions. He was a Real Estate Broker. He has served on the Poudre Valley Coop Board, Colorado Beef Council, Water boards and was president of the Livestock Marketing Association. He was honored by these awards – Rotary Club of Ft Collins “In Service to Agriculture award – National Livestock Association Industry Leader award – Rotary Club Larimer County Ag Business Man of the year. He enjoyed watching his 9 grandchildren play various sports. Wayne loved checking on his cattle and loved to have a

conversation with anyone he knew or didn't know. He was preceded in death by his parents Doc & Ruth Kruse. He is survived by his wife Joyce, 3 sons Dan (Susan) Ft. Collins, Tracey Carr, CO, Chad (Melissa) Franktown, CO and daughter Amy (Jim) Anderson Wellington, CO. One brother Ed Kruse Kimball Ne. 9 grandchildren Dusty (Aly) Kruse, Krista (Derek) Daniels, Caitlin (Eric) Smithers, Tana Kruse, Cole & Joel Anderson, Bela, Sofía & Otto Kruse. 6 great grandchildren- Jaxson Smithers, Jett and Conway Kruse, Boone Daniels, Ryder and Blakely Vaughn.

A funeral mass will be held at 9:30 am on Monday, October 28, 2024 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Mountain Ave.

Memorials can be made in Wayne 's name to CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora,, Colorado. Please go to [giving.cu.edu/kruse](https://giving.cu.edu/kruse) to make a donation.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

OCT **28**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church  
300 W. Mountain Ave.  
Fort Collins, 80521

# Tribute Wall

RF

“ Our deepest sympathy, The Kruse family have always been a great support in the agricultural community. He will be missed. The Fuller’s

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**Randy Fuller** - October 28, 2024 at 10:47 AM

KC

“ Our hearts go out to you at this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

*Ted and Kimberly Coleman*

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**Kimberly Coleman** - October 28, 2024 at 09:29 AM

PC

“ Met Wayne while I was in 4H. Really enjoyed being around him ended up working at the barn and enjoyed his guidance and leadership. He will be greatly missed by all and he has created a huge impact with the agricultural world. Condolences to the kruse family.

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**Patric Van Campen** - October 26, 2024 at 01:30 AM

CB

*Wayne had a far reaching impact on many people. It was always fun to be around him. He treated his help with a great heart and not being not helped his children, but the rest of us grow. Thanks to the Kruse family for all the years they have dedicated to the livestock industry.*

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**Carter Benedict** - November 02, 2024 at 12:49 AM

DV

“ Dear Joyce and family, there really are no words, but I’m truly sorry for your loss ❤️👉. I will never forget the many times Wayne (and all of you, really) helped me, especially after my dad passed. I will always be grateful for the time you and Wayne went above and beyond to help me get about 50 head of bred cows one February worked, branded, & shipped 🙏.💕! I know my parents enjoyed the opportunity to know and do business with Wayne. Keeping all of you in my prayers. Love, Dana Vercimak

Dana Vercimak - October 26, 2024 at 12:20 AM

DT

“ Joyce, Tracey, Danny, Chad, Amy and all extended family. I wasn’t expecting to read of Wayne’s passing, but I knew his health was failing him. I truly enjoyed working for CLA pre-Covid as an auctioneer at the heavily attended Saturday consignment auctions. It didn’t take long for me to understand that Wayne was a well respected man in the community and auction business. After his retirement, he and Joyce hired me a few times to come down to Fort Collins to trim or remove some trees as needed. His sense of humor coupled with his knowledge of the auction business will be long remembered. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to help in the family business, albeit a short amount of time. Gods peace be with the entire Kruse family.  
Doug Thies ~ Cheyenne, WY

Doug Thies - October 25, 2024 at 02:46 AM

LJ

“ I remember my son Darrel selling his pig at the Larimer County fair and Wayne and grandpa red bidding on Darrel and having a bidding war on him Wayne got stuck with Darrel pig that year he was a big support to my family with 4h

Levi Jewett - October 24, 2024 at 10:58 PM

RS

“ I grew up on a farm north of Genoa, Nebraska. I went through 4 years of Genoa High School with Wayne. He was always a nice guy, and when I was sent in to substitute in the football line, I always tried very hard to create an opening for the powerful fullback. We were undefeated in 1960. He and Joyce were also so welcoming and friendly when my wife and I returned to Genoa for my 45th high school reunion.  
*Bob Spuit, Minneapolis, MN*

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**Robert E Spuit** - October 24, 2024 at 01:07 PM

RS

“ I can remember the day when Wayne and Bud took over the barn. Wayne and the whole family have been a big asset to Agriculture in Larimer County. We are sure the world is a better place, thanks to Wayne.  
*Richard Seaworth and Family*

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**Richard Seaworth** - October 24, 2024 at 12:43 PM

SH

“ I grew up with Wayne in Genoa, Nebraska, sharing all the years from kindergarten through high school graduation. He was a great athlete and friend to everyone. *Sharon Dannelly Hagenbuck*

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**SHARON L HAGENBUCK** - October 24, 2024 at 11:30 AM

TA

“ Wayne was one of the sweetest man you could ever meet. I am glad I got to meet him at Poudre Valley coop. He would come in with the biggest smile and always had us smiling and laughing. My condolences to the family

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**taylor** - October 24, 2024 at 04:43 AM

GB

“ Glad I got to know him the Last 7 years as he would come into the coop always smiling and kind even the last few years I would always go out to the truck and talk to him he was a great man sure gonna miss that man coming in and just talking to him my condolences to the family he’s gonna be missed deeply

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**Gene Bridwell** - October 23, 2024 at 10:21 PM

ST

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. In my 24 years at First National Bank long ago, Wayne was truly my favorite customer! He was funny, kind, would show up unannounced to share a cup of coffee, complain about bank rules, and always called me "that redhead" because of my hair! I'll never forget once I was invited to lunch at CLA and arrived in a bright blue suit and heels (bank attire back in the late 90's - early 2000's) and Wayne said in a very loud voice as I walked across the lot "well here's the redheaded bank lady showing up all fancy!" My sincere condolences to his family and friends - I hope you can smile about the love and fun you had with him.  
Susie Tweeton

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**Susie Tweeton** - October 23, 2024 at 08:50 PM

LP

“ Wayne was a fantastic boss when I clerked at CLA. One of my favorite memories was trying to pay attention to current price, lot numbers, animal weights and descriptions—all while Wayne carried on a conversation with me while auctioning:) That took a lot of energy. Condolences to all the family, Lois Williamson Peltz

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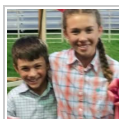
**Lois Williamson Peltz** - October 23, 2024 at 05:02 PM

AM

“ 5 files added to the album Kruse Family



Amy - October 23, 2024 at 04:07 PM



Amy I'm so sorry to hear of your dad. Have great memories of you guys living next to is in Sterling across from the sale barn. We What a great family. My thoughts and prayers for Wayne and all his family. My sincere condolences. Dorothy Unrein

Dorothy Unrein - October 24, 2024 at 06:38 PM