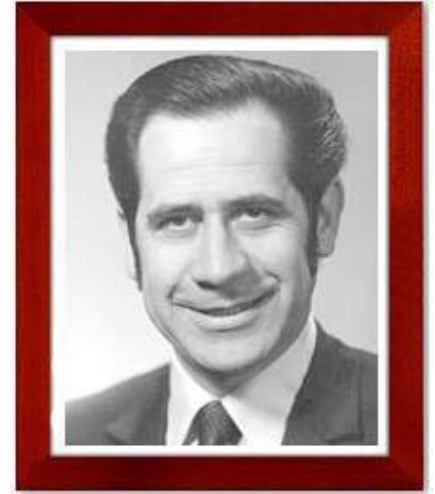# Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

JAMES C. SNYDER (1930-1974)

Dr. James (Jim) Snyder was born March 31, 1930 in Ontario, Canada. Jim completed his bachelor's degree at Ontario Agricultural College in 1953 and came to Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics for graduate study, earning his M.S. degree in 1956 and a Ph.D. in 1962. In recognition of his excellence in research, Jim received a Ph.D. thesis award from the American Farm Economics Association (now the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association), the first such award earned by a Purdue student.

Jim Snyder joined the Purdue Agricultural Economics staff in 1957 as an instructor, quickly gaining prominence in the application of modern quantitative decision procedures to the problems of agricultural businesses. From 1954 to 1961 he also served in a part-time Visiting Professor capacity on the faculty of Goshen College. Professor Snyder was an outstanding teacher of both undergraduates and graduate students as well as of businessmen. He was named Teacher of the Year for his outstanding undergraduate instruction and attained the rank of full professor in 1969.

He was a pioneer in the practical application of management decision models to agribusiness. He successfully developed a compacted matrix approach to solving large and complex computer problems. He paralleled his academic success with the development of a highly respected business management consulting firm. His design of functional programs for management decision-making is well known, and his consulting activities gave him insight and opportunities to make his work relevant to every-day business needs.

Jim Snyder is remembered as a brilliant colleague whose work, standards and style are an inspiration to those following in his footsteps at Purdue University. Each spring he is honored at the Department of Agricultural Economics annual event, The James C. Snyder Memorial Lecture, meant to encourage the legacy of farming, the importance of research and emerging technologies, as well as the networking of ideas and strategies.