



Through the decades, Sam has led a life of leadership, entrepreneurship, and community service.

As a young boy, he could be found riding the tractor on the farm in Auburn, attending the Church of the Brethren with his parents and sister, playing sports, and making friends in the community. Not much has changed over time!

Sam would attend Manchester college in Indiana before making his way back to the family farm in Auburn where he and his father, Philip Snell, went into business together in 1970. The start of Snell Farms launched him into the agricultural community, where he held many leadership positions, starting with the State Young Farmers' Committee. He went on to serve on the State Board of Directors for Illinois Pork Producers from 1982-1989 and was the Sangamon County Farm Bureau President from 1984-1986. That, along with running a hog and cattle operation, corn and soybean farming, serving on the church board, and raising two daughters kept him on his toes.

His entrepreneurial spirit and desire to innovate led to the creation of a solar company named Sunduit in the 80s, and a construction company, Sam Snell Construction, in the 90s. The subdivision he built, Auburn Hills, is conveniently adjacent to the Auburn football field, where he has fond memories of playing, and still enjoys supporting the kids who play today. His natural ability to encourage and develop others was especially evident during his coaching days at Auburn High School where he helped groom the girls' basketball team while his daughter played.

Since 2003, Sam has served on Sangamon County Board, where he has worked hard for the constituents he represents in District 7. He has chaired and served on many committees and was instrumental in the creation of the Sangamon County Drug Task Force through the Sheriff's Department to help stop drug trafficking.

Since his retirement from farming, he and his wife Patty have enjoyed traveling to see their 8 grandchildren, 4 daughters, and maintaining lifelong friendships they've made along the way.

2020 Recipient
Sam J. Snell
Auburn, IL

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