



CHERYL COOK

Cheryl Cook was appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as Acting Chief Information Officer on April 30, 2012. In this position, Cook provides executive leadership for all USDA Information Technology (IT) investments, operations and management. In addition Ms. Cook advises the Secretary/Deputy Secretary and other USDA senior managers on the strategic use of information technology to support core USDA programs and to achieve mission critical goals.

Prior to coming to OCIO, Cook served as the Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development from March 30, 2009. In this position, she managed policies and programs in Rural Development's three main areas: Business and Cooperatives, Housing and Community Facilities, and Utilities.

Cook served from May 1993 until March 2000 as Rural Development's Pennsylvania State Director. She also worked in USDA's Washington, D.C. office as Executive Officer of the National Food and Agriculture Council.

Between Federal appointments, Cook served as Deputy Secretary for Marketing and Economic Development at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and as Executive Director for the Keystone Development Center, a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania that helps new and emerging cooperatives. She was a member of the National Farmers Union's public policy staff, focusing on dairy, credit, and environmental issues. She also maintained a private law practice.

Cook received her bachelor's degree from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., and a law degree from The Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pa. (April 2009) Daniel Basse is President of AgResource Company. AgResource Co. is a domestic and international agricultural research firm located in Chicago. AgResource forecasts domestic and world agricultural price trends and provides information/research to; farmers, elevators, soy and corn processors, wheat millers, food companies, trading companies, importers, exporters and meat packers. AgResource's research is sold around the globe in 81 nations.

Mr Basse is an economist that has been in the commodity business since 1979. Raised on a dairy/grain farm in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Mr Basse has a keen sense of production agriculture. Mr Basse graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1979 in Ag Economics. He has worked with Professional Farmers of America, Brock Associates and the ag research division of GNP Commodities in Chicago. In 1988, Mr Basse founded AgResource Company to serve the needs of the US and world agricultural community.