



Christopher I. Cook is the Executive Director of VA FAIRS. He is an agricultural enterprise development advisor with a broad range of skills and expertise including business creation and strategic planning and development. In addition, Mr. Cook has over twenty-five years of agricultural experience including the organization, financing, and development of farmer-owned start-up businesses. Having assisted more than 20 businesses, Mr. Cook has a strong background in facilitating agricultural, value-added entities through strategic planning.

In the past few years alone, he has completed feasibility studies looking at the viability of ethanol production, pork processing, bio-methane production, and meat processing in Virginia; and provided assistance on other studies regarding beef processing, bio fuels, pelletizing DDGS, and wine marketing .He is currently leading efforts for other feasibility studies regarding wine production, bio-digesters, and local meat initiatives. He has assisted in the organization of New Generation Cooperatives by providing advice on the complex issues involved in their formation and governance, as well as aiding in the development of marketing plans for nine nascent enterprises.

His work experience covers two continents. He farmed in the United Kingdom and was Managing Director of a 1,000 acre farm producing beef and small grains. His education includes the Certified Economic Development Financial Professional from the National Development Council; a Masters in Business Administration from the College of William & Mary; and a graduate certificate in accounting from Virginia Commonwealth University.