



Spencer Neale is the senior assistant director in the commodity/marketing department with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation (VFBF) working out of the state office in Goochland County. He also serves on the executive committee of the VA Food System Council.

He has been with the VFBF since 1992, working with and representing farmers across the state on issues dealing with production, marketing and economics. On the commodity side, his specific areas of concentration include apples, aquaculture, cotton, equine and livestock. From an issues standpoint he follows international trade, federal farm policy (including the Farm Bill), animal health and traceability, and commodity promotion programs.

In recent years he has worked extensively with farmer groups on value-added projects on behalf of VFBF, as well as serving as a staff resource for the VA Foundation for Agriculture Innovation Rural Sustainability (VAFAIRS), one of 27 USDA funded Rural Cooperative Development Centers across the U.S. His work in these areas has consisted of assisting with acquiring grant funding, strategic planning, market analysis, and feasibility studies.

Prior to coming to Farm Bureau, Mr. Neale spent 15 years as a managing partner of a large, diversified family farming operation in Orange County, Virginia, that raised beef cattle, sheep, horses and timber. He attended Washington & Lee University and currently resides in Doswell, VA.