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Office of the Undersecretary

Bio for Cheryl Cook
Deputy Under Secretary
Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Cheryl Cook was appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as **Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development** on April 10, 2009. In this position, Cook manages 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, specializing in food, nutrition and housing program delivery.

Between Federal appointments, Cook served as Deputy Secretary for Marketing and Economic Development at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. She previously worked 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)

