

**Lou Cooperhouse**  
**President & CEO, Food Spectrum, LLC**  
<http://foodspectrum.com/>

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Lou Cooperhouse is recognized as a leading global authority in food business innovation, incubation, acceleration and industry cluster formation; and as a results-driven professional with proven ability to build, develop and transform corporations and organizations. During his 30+ year career in the food industry, he has led cross-functional teams in a wide array of settings including: new business startups, mid-sized and family-run companies, multinational corporations, foodservice and retail operations, university entrepreneurship and innovation centers, and industry trade associations.

Lou is President and CEO of Food Spectrum, LLC, which provides a broad array of strategic expertise to the food industry. Core competencies include business strategy; new product ideation, innovation and incubation; technology assessment and commercialization; organizational leadership and strategic planning; change management and business transformation; quality assurance and product safety systems; plant and process design and engineering; and operational performance and metrics. Specialized services are also provided to the investment community in areas that include: corporate due diligence, market assessments, competitive intelligence, and assistance with mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, business restructuring and reorganizations, joint ventures, contract processing, technology transfer opportunities, and other strategic alliances.

Lou also currently serves as the Executive Director and founder of the Rutgers University Food Innovation Center (FIC), a globally recognized food business incubator and economic development accelerator program. The FIC services both domestic and international food businesses with extensive programs in training and workforce development; customized and comprehensive business and technical mentoring; and USDA- and FDA-inspected facilities that enable design, development, commercialization and manufacture of value-added food products for sale to retail and foodservice markets. Under Lou's leadership, the Center was awarded the "Incubator of the Year", by the International Business Innovation Association (InBIA) and certified as the only "Soft Landings" food incubation program *in the world*. He also was selected as an expert witness to the US Congress where he testified on global best practices in business incubation, cluster formation, and job creation.

Lou has considerable industry leadership experiences in the specialty and perishable prepared foods industry, and in nutritional and functional foods. Previously, he served as President & COO of F&S Produce, a leading regional supplier of fresh-cut produce and value-added refrigerated foods, providing leadership to over 500 employees, located at two facilities with over 125,000 sf operations. Prior to this, he served as Co-Founder, President and CEO of MenuDirect Corporation, a unique health, wellness, and medical nutrition company, which raised four rounds of venture funding. Earlier in his career, Lou held positions of increasing responsibility at Campbell's Soup, ConAgra, Nestlé-funded Culinary Brands, and Idle Wild Farms in areas of business development, product development, quality assurance, and operations.

Lou also currently serves as Executive Director of the New Jersey Food Processors Association, an organization of manufacturers and suppliers of food and agricultural products, joined together to promote best practices, share information and expand the food industry of New Jersey and the surrounding region. In addition, he is the founder of the Food Business Incubation Network (FoodBIN), a global network of food incubators, accelerators, and shared-use kitchens; and serves on the Board of Directors of the InBIA, the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship to early-stage companies, serving over 2,000 members in over 60 nations. He also serves as President of the New Jersey Business Incubation Network and on the Editorial Advisory Board of Produce Processing Magazine, and previously served on the Board and member of the Executive Committee of the Refrigerated Foods Association; on the board of the United Fresh Produce Association; and on the Board of Managers for the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station.

Lou received a MS in Food Science and BS in Microbiology, both from Rutgers University, and has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Rutgers Business School.