

FSCAP Certified Steward

Jug Bay Stable Jeff and Alison Shenot

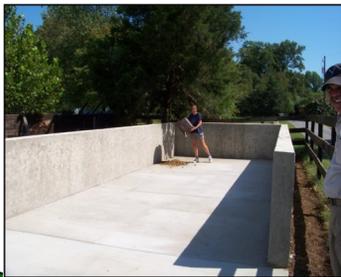


Jeff and Alison Shenot bought the property that became Jug Bay Stable in 1998. The Prince George's County farm is situated along the Patuxent River's Jug Bay, and adjacent to the Mount Calvert Historical and Archeological Park. This area has unique ecological and cultural significance, due to exceptionally high biodiversity and historically important archeological resources from colonial and pre-colonial America. Alison has been riding and training racehorses and sport horses for over 25 years. Jeff comes from a six-generation Pennsylvania farm family, and is a fish and wildlife biologist. He has documented nearly 240 bird species observed at Jug Bay Stable.

They started working with the Prince George's Soil Conservation District in 2004, and were selected as the 2014 Cooperator of the Year. The area has very sandy soils prone to soil and wind erosion, and steep slopes leading down to wetlands and Patuxent River require extra attention. Tidal influence of the Patuxent River places most of the farm in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The well-tended pastures are managed with Soil Conservation District-approved waste management and nutrient management plans, as well as prescribed grazing rotation. Pastures are periodically over seeded and the herd of five to seven horses is rotated to ensure adequate ground cover, and re-growth between grazing cycles. Jeff also tries to incorporate as much compatible wildlife planting and habitat as the farm can provide.

In September of 2010, with technical assistance from the District and participation in the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program, they installed the first reinforced concrete animal waste storage structure in Prince George's County. Because the small farm has insufficient land to spread the manure, it is all removed three to four times a year and taken to a local composting facility. This system provides great water quality benefits to the shallow aquifer here, and also results in a beneficial use for the waste.

In 2013, Alison and Jeff "went solar". Financing and permitting were a considerable challenge but they persisted, and installed 64 solar panels on the south side of their stable. The solar panels eliminated nearly all electric utility costs, and essentially supply enough power for both the stable and their home throughout the year.



Farm

Stewardship Certification
and Assessment Program (FSCAP)

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

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