

Landowner Case Study: Jeff Miller



Property Details



Location:
St. Mary's County



Property Type:
Farmland



Conservation Program:
Maryland Rural Legacy in
partnership with Patuxent
Tidewater Land Trust



Goal Acres Protected:
57.4

The Dixon Family Farm has been in the Miller family for nine generations, farmed continuously since the 1600s. These days, the farm focuses on agritourism activities – U-pick flowers and vegetables, lavender and pumpkin festivals, and a Christmas market – with potential plans for an on-site winery or cafe.

After persistent outreach from developers seeking to purchase the farm, Jeff sought a permanent conservation option that would keep the land in the family while supporting and expanding their agrotourism operations. Maryland's Rural Legacy Program was the right fit since it offers a flexible easement structure. The Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust assisted the Millers by coordinating the surveys, inspections, and county approvals at no cost to the Millers. Jeff described the process as slow but straightforward, and ultimately worth it.

"[Maryland's Rural Legacy Program] is a great program. It allows you the freedom to maintain farming, to pretty much do whatever you want to do as long as you're in the agricultural business."



For more information on the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance and land conservation programs in Southern Maryland, please visit acltweb.org/smca.



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**