Spring Valley Student Farm
2020
Paid Summer Student Farmer Application

Spring Valley Student Farm Mission:

Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) provides an opportunity for UConn students and the greater community to join together to learn about environmentally, socially and economically ethical regenerative food production through hands-on experience. The Farm allows students to gain practical knowledge and skills through experiential learning.

SVSF Experience:

The sustainable farming experience grows not only vegetables and fruit but it grows the student as well. Through the diversity of the working group there is ample opportunity to learn from each other and from the land. While working at SVSF the student farmers will learn sustainable growing methods and the business aspects of farming. As stewards and ambassadors of the farm the student farmers support SVSF as an educational destination where everyone may come together to learn and grow. SVSF produce, grown with organic methods for use by UConn Dining Services on campus, models a closed loop food system.

The farm is located 4.5 miles off campus at 104 Spring Manor Road, Mansfield, CT, 06268.

Summer Student Farmer Benefits:

University of Connecticut’s Department of Dining Services created and supports the positions of Summer Student Farmer. UConn Dining Services operations is the recipient of all produce harvested from SVSF. This classification is a seasonal part time, end dated, student, state position. This position provides the student farmer with a bi-weekly wage of $11.00/hour for up to 40 hours of work per week. For a modest room rental fee, students may live at SVSF for the summer. The paid summer student farmer is not required to live at the farm however; living at the farm is encouraged. There is a separate application for living at the farm, which will be available at http://dining.uconn.edu/spring-valley-farm/.

Summer Student Farmer Responsibilities:

The hourly paid SVSF Summer Student Farmer will be part of a production team. There will be a commitment of at least 30 hours per week of farm work beginning Wednesday, May 13, 2020 through Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Weekend work will be required with a minimum of two worked weekends per month. Unpaid time off is to be arranged at least two weeks in advance of requested time.

Daily duties will include, but not be limited to, planting crops in field and greenhouses, maintaining aquaponics greenhouse, weeding, watering, beekeeping, following Good Agricultural Practices Standard Operating Procedures for produce harvesting, washing, packing, delivering and record keeping. There will be opportunities to lead farm tours with a variety of age groups. Working one evening per week, during the weekly community volunteer events, will be required.
Summer Student Farmer Qualifications:

This position is open only to undergraduate students of the University of Connecticut who are currently enrolled full time for the fall 2020 semester. Previous volunteering at Spring Valley Student Farm is highly considered during the selection process, but not required. Applicants must be physically capable of performing the strenuous physical labor necessary to do farm chores under a variety of climatic conditions.

The summer student farmer needs to have a curious mind, the desire to do whatever it takes to get the produce to market, a sense of humor in the face of adversity, and a proven positive work ethic.

In addition to the application, there will be a personal interview, and possibly an on-farm hands-on trial work experience, as part of the hiring process.

2020 SVSF Summer Student Farmer Application
Please answer the following questions in a simple, but thoughtful, paragraph or two.

Name: PeopleSoft Student ID Number: Address: Phone: Email: Date of Birth: Semester Standing

1. Please describe your volunteer experience at SVSF, if any, and recent applicable education and work experience.

2. Please state three interesting things about yourself.

3. What motivated you to apply for this position?

4. Please describe your experience with manual labor and/or farming (type of work, hours, duration). What is the hardest physical labor you’ve ever done? How will you handle the strenuous physical nature of farming?

5. Describe a time when you took initiative to solve a problem.

6. What experience have you had that will help to prepare you for being in a close-knit community, where everyone is expected to practice active tolerance and pull their own weight? How would you be a good member of our working community?

7. Please tell about a time when you handled a difficult situation.

8. How will you utilize the knowledge, skills and experience you will gain at the farm in achieving your future goals?

9. Please list dates and times you are available for an interview March 25, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

Applications are due back no later than Wednesday, March 25, 2020
Return application to: Email Julia.cartabiano@uconn.edu