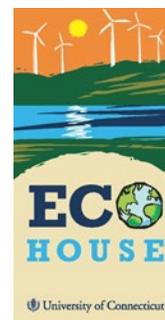




Spring Valley Student Farm Paid Summer Farmer Application Summer 2022



Please review the information below before completing the application questions. ***Important: Summer programming at SVSF, including the availability of the paid summer farmer position, is contingent upon UConn's Covid-19 health and safety guidance.***

About Spring Valley Student Farm

Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) was created in spring 2010 as an extension of the EcoHouse Learning Community. SVSF provides students the opportunity to live and work together in a vibrant community focused on the common goal of healthy local food production. While living and working at the farm students gain practical knowledge and regenerative farming skills through experiential learning. The residential program provides additional independence and responsibility appropriate to returning upper-class students. The farm is located 4.5 miles off campus at 104 Spring Manor Road, Mansfield, CT, 06268.

Spring Valley Student Farm exists as a collaborative venture between Dining Services, Residential Life, First Year Programs and Learning Communities - EcoHouse, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, UConn Service Learning and the Office of Sustainability.

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 while simultaneously modeling a closed loop food model in which organic produce is grown on campus for UConn Dining Services. Spring Valley Student Farm aims to be a place where students, faculty, staff, and Storrs-Mansfield community members can come together to learn about the connections between land, food, and people.

Spring Valley Student Farm Goals:

- Serve as a vanguard for the local, organic food movement on the UConn campus by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of the foods they consume daily.
- Model efficient, effective regenerative organic farming techniques that yield healthy productive soil, increased farm biodiversity and hundreds of varieties of high-quality vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers.
- Encourage imaginative, innovative, and creative thinking to achieve more sustainable lifestyles and solutions.
- Host workshops, seminars, tours, and volunteer workdays for the campus community, local residents, and local schools.

Paid Summer Farmer Program Overview:

Paid summer farmers are core members of Spring Valley Student Farm, working alongside the farm manager and community of resident student farmers to grow produce for Dining Services. SVSF is an educational farm, and so the production team is invited to learn and question at every stage of the season, from planting to harvest. Through the diversity of the working group there is ample opportunity to learn from each other and from the land. Student farmers will learn sustainable, organic, and low-till growing practices for small-scale diversified vegetable production, including crop rotation, cover cropping, weed control, pest management, composting, and soil building. As stewards and ambassadors of the farm, the student farmers also support SVSF as a living, welcoming laboratory where everyone may come to learn and grow.

Summer Student Farmer Benefits:

The Summer Student Farmer position is supported by University of Connecticut's Department of Dining Services. This classification is a seasonal, part time, end dated, non-state position. This position provides the student farmer with a bi-weekly wage of \$13.00/hr until June 30th, and \$14.00/hr starting July 1st. For a modest room rental fee, students may live at SVSF for the summer (see additional information below).

Summer Student Farmer Responsibilities:

The hourly paid SVSF Summer Student Farmer will be part of a production team. Farmers are committed to working 20 hours per week from Tuesday, May 10, 2022, through Friday, August 26, 2022. The weekly schedule is structured around production needs and community events. Unpaid time off is permitted up to a maximum of two weeks total, to be arranged at least two weeks in advance of requested time. Each student farmer plays an integral role throughout the growing season.

Daily duties will include, but not be limited to: planting crops in field and greenhouses, maintaining aquaponics greenhouse, weeding, watering, beekeeping, and 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 and participate in the on-campus Farm Fresh Market.

Summer Student Farmer Qualifications:

This position is open to students of the University of Connecticut who are currently enrolled full time for the fall 2022 semester. 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 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. Previous volunteering at Spring Valley Student Farm or EcoGarden is highly considered during the selection process. This position is intended to be educational, and so previous growing experience is beneficial but not essential.

Additional Housing Information:

The paid summer student farmer is encouraged but not required to live at the farm. All SVSF residents contribute **10 hours per week** toward running the farm, in exchange for a discounted living arrangement. Students who are both paid summer farmers and residents are expected to work a total of 30 hours each week.

SVSF residents should expect to pay at least \$68/week in rent. (This housing cost is expected to increase for Summer 2022. The updated cost will be posted as soon as it becomes available.) All room fees are payable based on deadlines set for traditional university housing. Payment in full must occur prior to the summer period during which the student will be residing at the farm. The current room rate may be adjusted to reflect any future increase in fees passed by the Board of Trustees. Students accepted to live at SVSF will be

notified of any changes to the room rate prior to move-in date. The fee includes all utilities: heat, electricity, water, trash and recycling removal, laundry, and wireless internet. The houses are equipped with kitchens and so the fee does **not** include a meal plan.

SVSF is part of on-campus housing but is located at the farm, 4.5 miles away from the center of campus, at 104 and 86 Spring Manor Road in Storrs. There is no University transportation provided between the farm and the main Storrs campus. Many SVSF residents carpool or ride their bicycles to campus. SVSF students may speak with Parking Services to become eligible for a commuter parking pass.

Anyone living at SVSF must comply with the rules contained in the UConn On-Campus Housing Contract. Please read the Residential Life housing contract: <http://reslife.uconn.edu/housing-contract-forms/>. All students living at SVSF will be required to abide by any Covid-19 rules set forth by the university and Department of Residential Life.

Application

We are now accepting applications for the Summer 2022 employment at Spring Valley Student Farm. In a separate document, please respond to each question in no more than two total pages.

- 1) **Introductory information:** Please provide your name, preferred pronouns, home address, phone number, email address, major, expected graduation date, and Peoplesoft number.
- 2) What interests you about this program? Why do you want to be a Spring Valley student farmer?
- 3) Please describe your experience gardening or working on a farm, including volunteering at SVSF. What other relevant practical or academic experience do you bring to Spring Valley Student Farm?
- 4) Student farmers can expect to get tired and dirty during each day of work. Please describe your experience with manual labor (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) What other activities are you committed to for the summer of 2022? How would you balance your obligations, including SVSF?
- 6) How does this program fit into your personal goals?
- 7) Finally, what is your favorite vegetable and why?

Paid Summer Farmers are not required to live at Spring Valley Student Farm. Please answer the following questions only if you are interested in living at SVSF.

- 8) **Housing:** Accepted residents will be sharing a bedroom with one roommate in a house of seven students. Why are you interested in living in community? What are your assets as a house/roommate? What might be challenging for you?
 - a. This question is asked for planning purposes only and does not affect your admission: do you request that your roommate identify as the same gender as you?

Please return completed application to Jessica.larkin-wells@uconn.edu with subject "Summer 2022 Paid Farmer Application." The deadline for employment applications is Friday, March 11.