About Spring Valley Student Farm

Spring Valley Student Farm Concept:
Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) was created in 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. The residential program provides additional independence and responsibility appropriate to 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, and First Year Programs and Learning Communities - EcoHouse.

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.
Additional Information

Housing at SVSF is open to all full-time undergraduate students at the sophomore level or above. In exchange for a discounted living arrangement, all SVSF student farmers contribute **10 hours per week** toward running the farm during the academic year. Farm duties include planting, harvesting, soil preparation, and outreach. Student farmers commit to attending Farm Meetings every **Monday 6:00-8:00pm** throughout the academic year and leading volunteer activities every **Friday 4:00-6:00pm** during the growing season.

SVSF is part of on-campus housing but is located 4.5 miles away from the center of campus at 104 and 86 Spring Manor Road in Mansfield. 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.

SVSF residents should expect to pay **at least $1,155** total per semester, due and payable at the start of the semester. The current room rate might 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 snow removal, laundry, and wireless internet. The houses are equipped with kitchens and so the fee does **not** include a meal plan. Available bedrooms for new student farmers are small doubles. **NOTE: All SVSF applicants must apply for UConn on-campus housing. Please see [https://reslife.uconn.edu/housing-selection/](https://reslife.uconn.edu/housing-selection/) to apply.**

All students 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/](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.

Once a student takes up residence at Spring Valley, they are eligible to stay each semester until graduation, assuming they do not break code of conduct outlined in the SVSF Constitution. Student Farmers also have housing priority for the summer months to continue their 10hr/week volunteer commitment. Those who wish to work on the farm from May-August may also apply for part-time paid employment.

You may email Jessica.larkin-wells@uconn.edu or call 203-215-9345 with any questions.
Application

We are now accepting applications for Spring 2023 housing at Spring Valley Student Farm. In a separate document, please respond to each question in no more than two total pages. If you are a returning applicant, you may choose to rewrite your application, or submit only question number 8.

1) **Introductory information:** Please provide the following information.
   a. Full name and preferred name
   b. Preferred pronouns
   c. Home address
   d. Phone number
   e. Email address
   f. Major or course of study
   g. Expected graduation date
   h. 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) What other activities are you committed to for next semester? If accepted, how would you balance your obligations, including SVSF?

5) **Housing:** Accepted applicants will be sharing a bedroom with one roommate in a house of seven students. Why are you interested in living in a community? What are your assets as a house/roommate? What might be challenging for you?

6) The following questions are asked for planning purposes only and do not affect your admission:
   a. Select one of the following options. I am comfortable sharing my bedroom with:
      i. Someone with the same gender identity as me.
      ii. Someone with any gender identity.
      iii. Other (please explain).

7) Finally, what is your favorite vegetable and why?

8) **Returning applicants only:** How have you spent the time since your previous application to live at SVSF, and do you feel that you or your intentions have changed? If so, how so?

Please email completed application to Jessica.larkin-wells@uconn.edu with subject “Spring 2023 Housing Application.” The deadline for Spring 2023 applications is Friday, October 28.