



Spring Valley Student Farm Paid Summer Farmer Summer 2023



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. Since SVSF is an educational farm, 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 \$14.00/hr before June 1, and \$15.00/hr after June 1, 2023. 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 Friday, May 12 through Friday, August 25, 2023. 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. Farmers may choose to lead farm tours for many ages and participate in the on-campus Farm Fresh Market.

Summer Student Farmer Qualifications:

This position is open to undergraduate students of the University of Connecticut who are currently enrolled full time for the fall 2023 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 not required.

Additional Employment Opportunity:

Summer student farmers are encouraged to apply for additional employment as a Gleaning Intern. Gleaning Interns work **~7 hours per week** from March through August. See the Gleaning Intern fact sheet for more information.

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. See the Resident Farmer fact sheet for more information.

How to Apply: Please submit the SVSF General Application, found on the Employment tab of the SVSF website.