



Spring Valley Student Farm Cooperative Housing Summer 2023



Please review the information below before completing the application questions.

About Spring Valley Student Farm

Spring Valley Student Farm Concept:

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.

Additional Housing Information

Summer residence at SVSF is open to all full-time undergraduate students at the sophomore level or above who are enrolled for summer classes or the following fall semester. All SVSF student farmers contribute **10 hours per week** toward running the farm, in exchange for a discounted living arrangement. Farm duties include planting, harvesting, soil preparation, outreach, and weekly Farm Meetings.

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 can expect to pay at least \$72/week in rent. All room fees are payable based on deadlines set for traditional university housing. 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 recycling removal, laundry, and wireless internet. The houses are equipped with kitchens and so the fee does **not** include a meal plan. Student farmers may purchase the community meal plan at <https://dining.uconn.edu/community-meal-plan-voluntary-residential-meal-plan-purchase/>.

In addition, 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.

Those students interested in additional responsibilities may apply for a paid summer student farmer position or other student employment positions through Dining Services. Independent study or internship credits are also possible through the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. You will find further information about SVSF at <http://dining.uconn.edu/spring-valley-farm/>.

While we prefer to have one cohort of students throughout the entire summer, it is possible to live and volunteer at Spring Valley for only a portion of the summer. If you are interested in a shorter stay, please specify those dates in your application.

How to Apply: Please submit the SVSF General Application, found under the Housing tab of the SVSF website. You may reach out to Jessica.Larkin-Wells@uconn.edu with any questions.