



## Spring Valley Student Farm Cooperative Housing Fall 2023



Please review the information below before completing the SVSF General Application.

### 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 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, in exchange for a discounted living arrangement. Farm duties include planting, harvesting, soil preparation, and outreach. Student farmers also 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 through Residential Life 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.

Available bedrooms for new student farmers are small doubles. SVSF residents should expect to pay at least \$1,155 total per semester. 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. 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. Student farmers may purchase the community meal plan at <https://dining.uconn.edu/community-meal-plan-voluntary-residential-meal-plan-purchase/>.

**NOTE: All SVSF applicants must be accepted into UConn on-campus housing to be eligible for housing at the farm. Please see <https://reslife.uconn.edu/housing-selection/> to apply. SVSF is currently only accepting applications from students who are already approved for Fall 2023 on-campus housing.**

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/>. 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 for four semesters, 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 paid employment. Independent study or internship credits are also optional. You will find further information about SVSF at <http://dining.uconn.edu/spring-valley-farm/>.

**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](mailto:Jessica.Larkin-Wells@uconn.edu) with any questions. Fall 2023 applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis. Apply soon!