



Spring Valley Student Farm Cooperative Housing Fall 2024



Thank you for your interest in living at Spring Valley Student Farm. Please review the information below before submitting your application.

About Spring Valley Student Farm

Spring Valley Student Farm Concept:

Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) was created in spring 2010 as a collaborative venture between Dining Services, Residential Life, and the EcoHouse Learning Community. SVSF provides students of all majors the opportunity to live and work together in a vibrant community focused on common goals. 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 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. 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. Farm duties include planting, harvesting, soil preparation, outreach, and more. Student farmers also commit to attending Farm Meetings every **Monday 6:00-8:00 pm** throughout the academic year and leading volunteer activities every **Friday 4:00-6:00 pm** 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. The current room rate might be adjusted to reflect any future increase in fees passed by the Board of Trustees. All room fees are payable based on deadlines set for traditional university housing. 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. Applications are due February 9, 2024.

All students living at SVSF must comply with the rules contained in the UConn On-Campus Housing Contract as well as any other requirements set form by the university and the Department of Residential Life. Please read the Residential Life housing contract: <http://reslife.uconn.edu/housing-contract-forms/>.

Once a student takes up residence at Spring Valley, they are eligible to stay for four semesters. 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.

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.