

# UCONN

## Spring Valley Student Farm and the Windham Community Food Network Paid Gleaning Internship Summer 2024



Please review the information below before completing the application questions.

### **About the Windham Community Food Network**

The Windham Community Food Network's (WCFN) mission is to “create opportunities for the community by building a healthy food network.” The WCFN works to create a more just and resilient local community and food system, by integrating local food system stakeholders in order to identify local needs and opportunities and meet them using local resources.

WCFN members include community members, farmers, businesses, food assistance providers, social service agencies, municipal partners, and schools. Our goal is to create a self-sustaining local food system that centers those most affected by the current inequity in the mainstream food system and redistributes resources already existing in our community. Our gleaning program intends to benefit both farmers and marginalized/ low-income individuals in Willimantic, CT. Learn more at <https://www.windhamfood.org/>.

### **What is “gleaning”?**

Gleaning is gathering excess produce from farms and gardens. All the gleaned produce in this program is distributed back to the community for free. Gleaning fills an important gap in our food system by mitigating both food waste and food insecurity.

### **Windham Community Food Network Gleaning Program:**

In 2019, the Windham Community Food Network launched one of the first organized gleaning programs in the state. Beginning with two local farms we have been able to expand to four partners where we harvest excess produce and donate it to local food pantries. Farmers receive a stipend for their participation, guaranteeing them income and an outlet for their surplus produce. To date the program has prevented over 8,396 lbs of produce from being wasted. We also glean seedlings and seeds from these partners and local nurseries and distribute these to local home gardeners through our Plant-A-Row program. These gardeners also donate back any surplus produce, resulting in an additional 2,983lbs of food.

### **About Spring Valley Student Farm**

Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) was created in spring 2010. 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.

## **Gleaning Intern Overview:**

The WCFN and Spring Valley Student Farm received funds from the UConn Environmental Sustainability fund to hire two student gleaning interns to help sustain our gleaning, plant-a-row and processing efforts for the 2023 and 2024 growing seasons. This paid position is a wonderful way for students to actively increase food access and decrease food waste in Eastern Connecticut. This internship is an opportunity for students to play a role in this effort while gaining experience working with a variety of local farms and emergency food programs in our community.

## **Gleaning Intern Responsibilities:**

- Communicating with the WCFN Pantry Coordinator and Spring Valley Student Farm Manager to schedule pick up and drop offs of produce.
- Harvesting, washing and delivering produce to various pantries in the Willimantic area.
- Recording and weighing the amount of produce collected
- Starting and maintaining seedlings to distribute to community gardeners
- Developing a training guide/longevity plan to sustain the program after the internship period

## **Gleaning Intern Requirements:**

- Ability to commit an average of ~8 hours a week between May 13 and August 23, with flexible scheduling
- Available to distribute seedlings to community members at Veggiestock (held at Lauter Park, Willimantic) on Saturday June 1st, 2024.
- Drivers license and access to transportation to deliver produce and seedlings in North Eastern Connecticut.
- Excellent time management and verbal communication skills
- Ability to lift at least 50 lbs

## **Gleaning Intern Desired Qualifications:**

- Experience growing and harvesting food
- Desire to model and teach fellow students about gleaning methods/protocols
- Strong written and/or visual communication skills
- Plan to live and/or work at Spring Valley Student Farm during summer 2023 (encouraged, not required)

## **Gleaning Intern Benefits:**

The Gleaning Intern position is supported by the UConn Environmental Sustainability Fund through the University of Connecticut's Department of Dining Services. This classification is a seasonal, part time, end dated, non-state position. This position provides the gleaning intern with a bi-weekly wage of \$15.69/hr.

## **How to Apply:**

Please complete the SVSF General Application, linked on both the Housing and Employment tabs of the Spring Valley website: <https://dining.uconn.edu/spring-valley-farm/summer-employment/>. You may reach out to [Jessica.larkin-wells@uconn.edu](mailto:Jessica.larkin-wells@uconn.edu) with any questions.