



Spring Valley Student Farm Cooperative Housing Spring 2026



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 (SVSF) was created in spring 2010 as a collaborative venture between Dining Services, Campus Housing, and the EcoHouse Learning Community. The farm is located 4.5 miles off campus at 104 Spring Manor Road, Storrs Mansfield, CT, 06268.

Spring Valley Student Farm Mission:

Spring Valley Student Farm 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.

Resident Farmer Program Overview:

Resident farmers are core members of Spring Valley Student Farm, working alongside the farm manager and community of volunteer, paid and intern farmers to grow produce for Dining Services. Resident farmers are 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 through hands-on experience. Student farmers will also learn relational skills for healthy community dynamics and shared decision-making strategies.

We want Spring Valley Student Farm to be a supportive and inclusive space for all who participate. Everyone who comes to the farm is expected to engage with other humans, species and the land with respect. As stewards and ambassadors of the farm, resident student farmers support SVSF as a living, welcoming laboratory where everyone may come to learn and grow.

Resident Farmer Qualifications:

The resident farmer position at SVSF is open to all full-time undergraduate UConn students at the sophomore level or above who are approved for on-campus housing. Students of all majors are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be physically capable of performing the strenuous physical labor necessary to do farm chores under a variety of climatic conditions. The resident student farmer needs an open and curious mind, a sense of humor in the face of adversity, and a proven positive work ethic. Resident student farmers take on considerable responsibility and must be prepared to hold themselves accountable to meet their goals and commitments. Students work in both independent and collaborative situations and should be prepared to meet challenges working solo and in a diverse group of peers.

Previous volunteering at Spring Valley Student Farm is considered during the selection process. This position is intended to be educational, and so previous agricultural experience is not required.

Resident Farmer Benefits:

The resident farmer position is supported by University of Connecticut's Department of Campus Housing and Department of Dining Services. Resident farmers receive a discounted housing rate in exchange for their weekly work on the farm. SVSF residents should expect to pay at least \$1,295 total per semester. The current room rate may 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/>.

There are two houses at the farm, housing four and seven students. Available bedrooms for new student farmers are typically small doubles. Student farmers share their bedroom with one roommate and common spaces with the rest of the household.

Resident Farmer Responsibilities:

All SVSF resident farmers contribute at least **10 hours per week** toward running the farm. In a typical semester with 14 weeks of classes this comes out to a minimum of 140 hours of farm work for the semester. Farm duties include, but are not limited to: soil preparation, planting crops in field and greenhouses, weeding, watering, harvesting, outreach, educational programming, and weekly meetings. Farmers may choose to lead farm tours for many ages and participate in the on-campus Farm Fresh Market early in the Fall semester.

The weekly schedule is structured around production needs and community events. Each student farmer plays an integral role throughout the year. All student farmers are expected to attend Farm Meeting every week on Monday nights from 6:00-8:30pm. All student farmers are also expected to participate in Farm Friday from 3:30-6pm each week that it runs: every Friday from the beginning of the Fall semester until the last Friday of October, and every Friday after March break until the end of the Spring semester.

Student farmers are also responsible for upholding our community agreements. Members of the Spring Valley community agree on the following values:

- **Community:** We value a strong, healthy community where members can collaborate, resolve conflict, and learn from one another. We regard the health of our community as fundamental to our sustainability goals and inseparable from the success of the farm.
- **Compassion:** We practice compassion for ourselves, others, and the earth.
- **Curiosity and Learning:** We approach our farm community with curiosity. We practice experiential learning with a balance of action and reflection. We recognize that the best way to understand different perspectives is to ask and listen.
- **Inclusion:** We recognize that diversity is integral to the resilience of every human and ecological community. We strive to create a “safer space” for people of all identities.
- **Sustainability:** We recognize our responsibility as an educational farm to practice agriculture that is both environmentally and socially ethical, to “take care of the land as if our lives, both material and spiritual, depended on it.” (Robin Wall Kimmerer).
- **Action:** We act not only to learn but also to transform our food system. We farm to feed our community and to equip ourselves with the skills necessary for food sovereignty.”

Additional Housing Information

Transportation:

SVSF housing is located 4.5 miles away from the center of campus at 104 and 86 Spring Manor Road in Storrs, Mansfield. There is no University transportation provided between the farm and the main Storrs campus. Students who come to the farm without their own car must be prepared to meet transportation challenges with creativity and determination. Many SVSF residents carpool or ride their bicycles to campus. We typically have 1-3 resident farmers without cars each semester.

On-Campus Housing at SVSF:

Housing at Spring Valley Student Farm is operated by Campus Housing at UConn. This means that **anyone applying to the SVSF residential program must apply for on-campus housing through Campus Housing** in order to be considered for housing at the farm. The Spring 2026 on-campus housing application opens October 6, 2025 and closes on November 14, 2025. Please see [MyHousing | Campus Housing](#) to apply. Only students who are offered on-campus housing by Campus Housing will be able to live at the farm. Learn more about these dates and deadlines here: [Important Dates | Campus Housing](#). As on-campus residents, all students living at SVSF must sign and comply with the rules contained in the UConn On-Campus Housing Contract. Please read the Residential Life housing contract now to ensure this will work for you: [Housing Contract | Campus Housing](#).

Duration of Stay at SVSF:

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 and continue to be offered housing by Campus Housing. Student farmers also have housing priority for the summer months. Other opportunities at the farm include paid employment from May- August or internship for academic credit year-round. You will find further information on our website, <http://dining.uconn.edu/spring-valley-farm/>.

Application Timeline for Spring 2026 Housing:

- Applications due: November 2
- Interview process: November 11 – 17
- Offers given: November 18 – 21

- Move-out from fall housing: December 8 - 15
- Move-in to farm housing: January 17 - 18

We will work with Campus Housing (as well as Dining Services, if you have purchased a meal plan) to facilitate a smooth transition to the farm.

Questions?

We encourage you to seek more information about the farm on our website or Instagram page @springvalleystudentfarm. You can also reach out to us individually:

- Current student farmer Romina Flores Diaz via email at Romina@uconn.edu or via text at 860-406-4463.
- Farm Manager Jessica Larkin-Wells via email at Jessica.Larkin-Wells@uconn.edu or by phone at 959-444-3417.

Please use phone numbers respectfully by contacting us during regular working hours: Monday through Friday, 7am-6pm.

How to Apply: Please submit the SVSF General Application, found under the Housing tab of the SVSF website. Complete instructions are listed at the top of the application. **The application deadline for Spring 2026 housing is Sunday, November 2.** We look forward to hearing from you soon!