

Town Hall

2-3 pm, November 20, 2025

- Welcome
- Leadership Update
- Stories From the Field: Tribal Extension Office
- Strategic Focus: New Programmatic Structure
- In the news
- New Hires
- Other Updates



Chat warmup
Learning about each other:

What would you wish for if you met the Wizard of Oz?



Leadership Update

Vision & News - (10-15 mins)



Stories from the Field

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Strengthening UC ANR's Commitment with Tribal Communities

Chris McDonald, PhD, CE Advisor, Southern California, cjmcdonald@ucanr.edu

Co-Chair, Native American Communities Partnerships Program Team

Matthew Barnes, Area Director, Lake and Mendocino Counties mgrbarnes@ucanr.edu

Future Vision: Challenges & Opportunities

Grand Vision:

- For ANR to lead the nation by example as a land grant institution that takes our land grab history seriously by listening to, learning from and investing in Tribes and tribal communities to meet their goals and needs
- To take meaningful action to address Tribes' challenges, strengths and priorities

**The University of California
Land Grab: A Legacy of Profit
from Indigenous Land**

A Report of Key Learnings and
Recommendations



Increasing ANR Capacity to Meet this Goal

Strengths

- We are increasing our effort at the right time
- Our activities are in demand
- Many creative ways to help build partnerships and increase ANR's capacity with Tribes

Opportunities

- Capacity gap is large
- Some solutions outside current ability of ANR to deliver
- We need to overcome multiple challenges to build successful partnerships

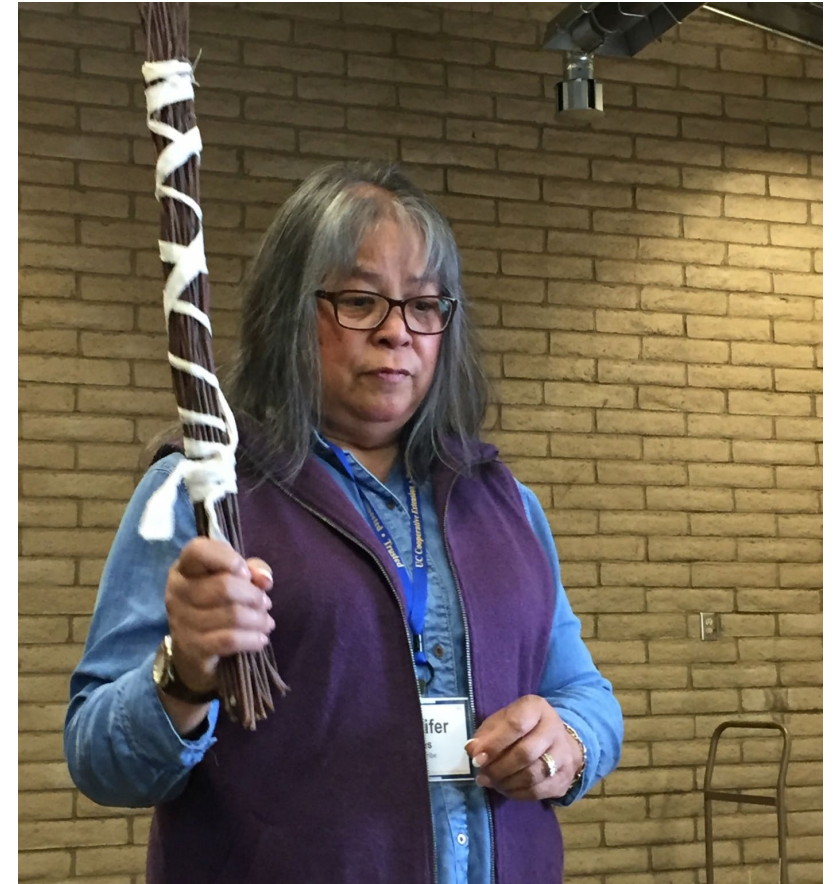
Native American Community Partnerships (NACP) PT

- Work group established in 2018
- NACP work group elevated to a program team in 2025
- What we do: strengthen UC ANR's relationships and extension programming with California Native American communities
- Bi-monthly meetings
- Professional development activities
- ANR needs assessment
- And more...
- Increased demand for knowledge & skills as we've grown from 6→ 174 members



Professional Development Workshops

- Two workshops (2017): Creating Successful Partnerships - Stockton, San Diego
- ANR Statewide conference workshop (2018)
- ANR Statewide conference workshop (2023)
- Two workshops in San Diego & Davis (2024)



Jennifer Bates, Mewuk Cultural Practitioner
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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Web Content (in Development)

- **Information for ANR and Tribal communities**
 - What resources can ANR offer to Tribes to reach their goals?
 - Where can ANR employees find information to build our capacity partnering with Tribes?
- Example content: What Tribes are in my area?
 - Maps: <https://native-land.ca/>
 - Explore California specific parcels, made by Andy Lyons at IGIS, at <https://arcg.is/1mr01e>
 - List of Tribes (federally and non-recognized), Tribal serving agencies and non-profit organizations – website, main phone #, headquarters location.



Web Content (in development)

- **How do I conduct culturally responsive programming?**
 - Culturally relevant reading/webinar materials
 - Partner with allies already working with Tribes & Tribal serving organizations.
- **What funding may be available to support Tribes and Tribal partnerships?**
 - List of federal and state grant opportunities
- **How do I ensure my research supports and is supported by the Tribe?**
 - Co-develop guiding principles & practices (eg. Karuk Tribe-UC Berkeley Collaborative: <https://nature.berkeley.edu/karuk-collaborative/>)

UC ANR Native American Advisory Council (NAAC) & Educational Seminar Series

- 9 Tribal members and tribal experts serve on the NAAC to provide advice on effective strategies to strengthen our partnerships with Native American communities
 - Ensure materials, program activities & resources are appropriate and align with Tribal sovereignty
 - Identify actions UC ANR might take to assess and address tribal concerns and priorities to inform strategic plan
 - NAAC hosting an in-person educational seminar January 28, 2026 in Davis. You are invited! Registration opening soon!

Land Acknowledgement (in development)

- **ANR Land, Culture and People Acknowledgement**

- Draft acknowledgement has been developed by NACP PT subcommittee
- Native American Advisory Council reviewing our draft ANR land acknowledgement in future

- **How to create a meaningful land acknowledgement?**

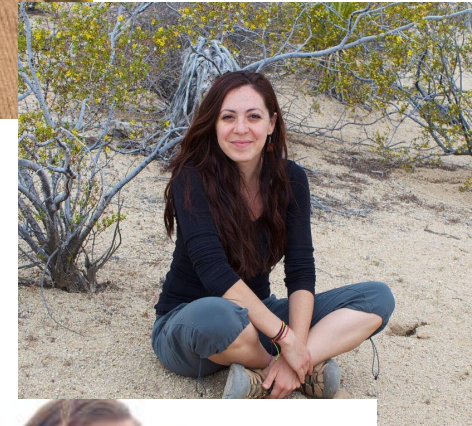
- Resource page for local offices
- Hopland Story Map, which includes history of Hopland Band of Pomo Indians (Adina Merenlender):

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/12251532227940368fc440b4b10c9711>

Three New Indigenous Community Focused Advisors

Advance opportunities to engage with Native communities

- Beneficial burning & Indigenous land stewardship (Mendocino & Lake)- Ally Sung-Jereczek
- Indigenous Food Systems and Food Sovereignty (San Diego & Riverside) – Marisela Chávez
- Indigenous Disaster Resilience Policy & Planning Advisor (Central Sierra) – Bob Woodke



Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

- ANR has signed MOU's with two tribal nations
- MOU with Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and Hopland Research and Extension Center
 - Goal is to cooperate on projects such as cultural burns, land access for gathering plants and cultural purposes, educational, research and extension opportunities, land stewardship, and more
- Middletown Rancheria MOU with ANR



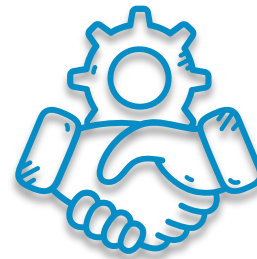
Sarah Stierch

**Middletown Rancheria
of Pomo Indians of California**

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A Model for Collaboration



BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION

- Historical underrepresentation of Tribal Nations in UC Cooperative Extension partnerships.
- Lack of formal mechanisms for shared governance, research priority-setting, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) recognition.
- Barriers to culturally aligned collaboration (funding restrictions, communication styles, institutional trust gaps).



UCANR RESPONSE

Leading With Intention

- UC ANR now centers equity, reconciliation, and sovereignty in its mission to serve all California communities.
- Formation of the Native American Advisory Council to ensure UC ANR's work aligns with Tribal priorities, values, and sovereignty.
- Native American Partnerships Program Team

Tribal Outreach Advisors

- Ally Sung-Jereczek – Beneficial Burning & Land Stewardship Advisor (Lake & Mendocino)
- Robert Lee Woodke – Indigenous Disaster Resilience Advisor (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Tuolumne)
- Marisela Chávez – Indigenous Food Systems & Food Sovereignty Advisor (San Diego, Riverside)





MIDDLETOWN RANCHERIA MOU

Foundational Accomplishments

- Culmination of this statewide reconciliation work
- First UC Tribal Cooperative Extension Office in California
- A replicable model for equitable UC Tribal collaboration across California
- Shared governance structure recognizing Tribal sovereignty

Resources & Support

- Tribe provides: office space, vehicle access, and a Tribal Agricultural Technician to support projects.
- UC ANR provides: research expertise, extension staff, and Y.D. programs.



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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA TRIBAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Core Commitments

- Establishes the first-ever UC Cooperative Extension Tribal Office at Middletown Rancheria
- Formalizes long-term partnership between UC ANR and the Tribe
- Recognizes Tribal sovereignty and honors Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Middletown Rancheria
of Pomo Indians of California

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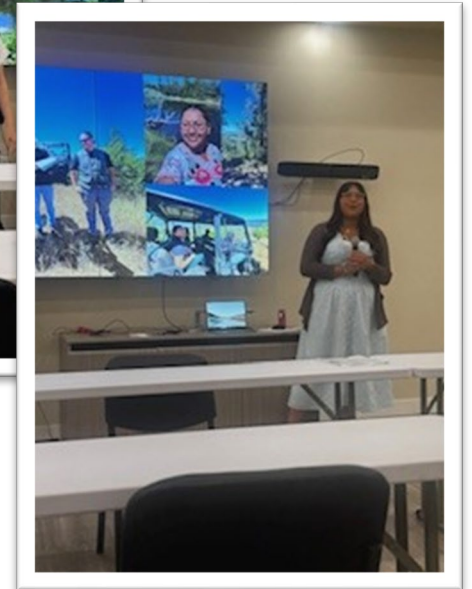
UC TRIBAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Projects completed or in progress:

- MOB infestation identified and removed under Dr. Mike Jones' guidance
- Vineyard and alternative crop assessments by Dr. Clebson Gonçalves & Dr Chris Chen.
- Engagement with Lake County Master Gardeners (Louise Pagone)
- Drought Resilience Assessment (led by Dr. Laura Garza-Diaz & ITEP intern)

Projects seeking funding:

- Agave Study by Dr. Clebson Gonçalves
- Research vineyards (Hopland REC + Rancheria) by Dr. Chris Chen
- Hazard Mitigation Planning by Ally Sung-Jereczek



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THANK YOU



Contact:

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Lake | Mendocino County

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of Pomo Indians of California



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Strategic Focus

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UC ANR's New Programmatic Structure

Brent Hales
Associate Vice President

| Program Areas | Program Teams | |
|---|--|--|
| Agronomy & Horticulture <i>Chair Tom Turini</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroecology, Organic & Regenerative Systems • Agronomic Crops • Environmental Horticulture, Floriculture, Berries & Nurseries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit & Nut Tree Crops • Urban Agriculture & Community Gardens • Vegetable Crops • Viticulture |
| Animal Production Systems <i>Chair Dan Macon</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Food Production Systems • Dairy Production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat Production • Specialty Livestock & Poultry |
| Community & Economic Development <i>Chair Keith Taylor</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Food Technology & Innovation • Biobased Products & Bioeconomy • Disaster Preparedness & Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Systems, Food Waste & Business Support • Labor & Workforce Development |
| Integrated Pest Management <i>Chair Jhalendra Rijal</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entomology, Arthropod & Vertebrate Pests • Plant Pathology & Nematology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed Management |
| Natural Ecosystems & Working Landscapes <i>Chair Jeff Stackhouse</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Conservation & Stewardship • Climate Science & Ecosystem Impacts • Fire Management, Policy & Resilience • Forest & Upper Watershed Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human-Wildlife Interactions • Rangeland & Grazing Systems • Soil Health & Management • Water Quantity, Quality & Security |
| Youth, Families & Communities <i>Chair Natalie Price</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Nutrition & Health • Native American Community Partnerships • Positive Youth Development & 4-H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Literacy & Critical Thinking • Systemic Inequalities |

Program Areas

- **Thematic umbrellas** over the new Program Teams
 - Bring together similar focus areas under broad disciplinary themes
 - Address shared challenges, opportunities, and programmatic goals
- **Program Area Chairs**
 - Serve on Program Council
 - Provide leadership to Program Team leaders
 - Convene and lead Program Area Panels
 - Submit Annual Report highlighting significant accomplishments for PA
- **Program Area Panels**
 - Members represent the affiliated Program Teams
 - Facilitate collaboration, align efforts, identify priorities and develop proposals for funding



Program Teams

- There are several **Program Teams** within each Program Area
 - Provide a platform to convene, collaborate, share knowledge and drive research and extension efforts
 - Oriented around discipline while facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations
 - Coordinate Workgroups
- **Program Team Co-Leads**
 - Campus-based academic and field-based academic co-lead each PT to encourage integration and collaboration across network
- **Joining a Program Team**
 - Contact the associated Program Team leads listed on website: <https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-anr-program-areas-and-program-teams>



Youth, Families, and Communities Program Area

Natalie Price

Community Nutrition and Health Advisor

Los Angeles and Orange Counties

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Community Nutrition and Health

Leads:

Yu Meng

Susana Matias

Goals:

- Increase participation and collaboration on research & extension projects.
- Strengthen, expand, create, implement and/or evaluate programs that support healthy living and socio-emotional health.
- Serve as a community of practice for all CE academics working in the area of CNH

Key Focus Areas:

- **Food & Nutrition Security:** Resource navigation; addressing food access and affordability; financial literacy
- **Diet Quality:** Support healthy eating; culturally relevant diets; reduce reliance on ultra-processed foods
- **Healthy Living:** Promote physical activity, disease prevention, and socio-emotional wellbeing across all ages
- **Sustainability:** Address community needs related to the sunset of CFHL, UC programs
- **Community Health & Policy:** Support efforts that improve community-level health outcomes and related policy



**Community Nutrition
& Health**

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Native American Community Partnerships

Leads:

Chris McDonald

Adina Merenlender

Goals:

- Strengthen UC ANR's relationships, trust, and collaborations with California Tribes and Indigenous communities
- Share research and extension efforts, foster peer learning, and coordinate closely with the Native American Advisory Council.
- Engage in strategic planning (2026)

Key Focus Areas:

- **Cultural Competency:** Training for academics, staff, and administrators engaging with Tribal Nations
- **Tribal-Led Research & Extension:** Support co-designed projects grounded in Indigenous knowledge and community priorities
- **Partnership Development:** Build relationships with Tribal-serving agencies, NGOs, and CBOs
- **Indigenous Stewardship & Resilience:** Uplift Tribal leadership in land, water, food, and community resilience initiatives

Positive Youth Development and 4-H

Leads:

Kali Trzesnewski

Nathaniel Caeton

Goals:

- Conduct a member needs assessment to set PT goals
- Translate Positive Youth Development (PYD) research into meaningful, practice-oriented outcomes.
- Align PYD research and practice with ANR priorities, increase member engagement, and foster collaboration

Key Focus Areas:

- **Expanded Learning:** Develop high-quality out-of-school experiences that build youth skills in STEM, leadership, and healthy living
- **Thriving Youth:** Train youth professionals to apply the 4-H Thriving Model and create environments where youth can thrive
- **College & Career Readiness:** Expand equitable pathways that prepare youth for higher education and workforce success
- **Volunteer Development:** Build volunteer capacity in youth–adult partnerships, youth development principles, and inclusive practices



**4-H Youth
Development Program**
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Science Literacy and Critical Thinking

Lead:

Steven Worker

Goals:

- Build and sustain membership
- Build an applied research and evaluation agenda
- Develop a shared theoretical framework for ANR on science literacy, critical thinking, and public engagement and confidence in science in the age of AI

Key Focus Areas:

- **Public Confidence in Science:** Build understanding and motivation to seek reliable, evidence-based information
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Equip youth and adults to evaluate sources, ask good questions, and analyze claims (including AI-generated content)
- **Applied Research & Evaluation:** Study how trust, science literacy, and critical thinking develop and change in diverse communities

Systemic Inequalities

Leads:

Karina Diaz Rios

Chandra Richards

Goals:

- Build and sustain membership
- Define the Program Team's purpose, scope, and structure to advance systemic equity and belonging across UC ANR's mission areas.
- Conduct needs assessment to identify and prioritize focus areas.

Key Focus Areas (First Year):

- **Address Systemic Barriers:** Identify and reduce obstacles limiting access and opportunity for underserved, underrepresented, vulnerable, and marginalized Californians.
- **Advance Equity Priorities:** Build capacity within under-resourced communities, engage equitably in research and programming, promote inclusive best practices, and remove barriers to participation.
- **Strengthen Equity Across Systems:** Support equitable access and outcomes across interconnected systems, potentially including: information and technology, clean air and water, natural and built environments, local food systems, food security and food sovereignty, culturally relevant education and resources, and community, youth, and workforce development.

Thank you!

Natalie Price
nmprice@ucanr.edu

In the Media

Phoebe Gordon talked to [KQED](#) about growing pistachios as a key ingredient of Dubai chocolate

Gabe Youtsey was quoted in [Growing Produce](#) and several ag media outlets about the California AgTech Alliance

[Gov. Newsom](#) quoted **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** about expanding beneficial fire

Christopher Shogren gave advice to the [San Diego Reader](#) for deterring dotted paropsine leaf beetle from attacking eucalyptus trees

Alexandra Hill talked to [Ag Alert](#) about loss of farmworker data after U.S. Department of Labor canceled the National Agricultural Workers Survey

Daniel Swain was quoted by [KQED](#) and other media about recent storms, [CNN](#) about Hurricane Melissa, [Gizmodo](#) & others on the Bill Gates' memo about climate change, [SF Chronicle](#) about National Weather Service

[https://ucanr.edu/News/UC ANR in the news](https://ucanr.edu/News/UC_ANR_in_the_news)



Maurice Pitesky told ABC10 swans are likely dying from avian influenza. He also spoke to LA Times about salmonella and Newsweek and other media about H5N5 bird flu in a Washington resident.

New Hires: Welcome to UC ANR

October 15- November 17, 2025

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Bri | Baker | ANR FIRE NETWORK |
| Damian | Barraza Villegas | DESERT REC |
| Hasmik | Djoulakian | UCCE SANTA CLARA COUNTY |
| Cadence Alexander | Doble | HOPLAND REC |
| Azalia | Huereque | DESERT REC |
| Gianna | Irungaray | DESERT REC |
| Chloe | LeMaire | SIERRA FOOTHILL REC |
| Janyne Marie | Little | UCCE LASSEN COUNTY |
| Jason Edward | Merin Flores | DESERT REC |
| Eli | Newell | OFFICE OF INNOVATION |
| Claudia | Pardo | UCCE KERN COUNTY |
| Chandra | Richards | UCCE SAN DIEGO COUNTY |
| Matthew Matthew | Rogers | UCCE ORANGE COUNTY |
| Maxwell H | Rygiol | UCCE MARIPOSA COUNTY |
| Jesus | Salinas | UCR CE ENTOMOLOGY |
| Fabian | Sanchez | STATEWIDE IPM PROGRAM |
| Deborah | Schnur | UCCE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY |
| Fernando | Serrano Vargas | UCR CE ENTOMOLOGY |
| Zoe | Van Der Linden | DESERT REC |
| Eli | Watt | HOPLAND REC |



Chandra Richards



Eli Newell

Other Updates

Giving Tuesday – Emily Delk

Principals of Community – Elizabeth Moon

ANR Photo Contest Winners

Key Takeaways:

- Make a plan and tell your story—relationships drive revenue
- 100% participation
- Incentive Prizes!

Contact:
Emily Delk
eddelk@ucanr.edu



GIVINGTUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2025

GivingTuesday is a global movement that harnesses the power of generosity to create lasting change in communities around the world.

Join us for our 24-hour online giving campaign in support of our work to share trusted, science-based information and practical solutions that improve lives and livelihoods. Your support helps address critical needs in agriculture and natural resources, wildfire resilience, environmental stewardship, food systems and nutrition, as well as youth and community development.

Together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities. We are here for you.

DEC 2, 2025 | MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT
GIVE.UCANR.EDU

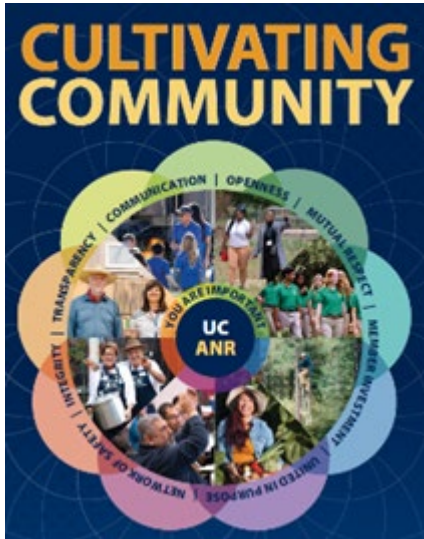
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Principles of Community Highlight: Openness

We foster openness through clear communication and a willingness to embrace diverse perspectives, ideas and feedback.

How We Implement **Openness** In the Workplace:

- Active Listening of others
- Support/advocacy for colleagues who are not always heard or represented in a group
- Provide a variety of ways for people to contribute
- Celebration of others' cultural backgrounds



WIB UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

Last Opportunity for Employees to share their voice in

[UC ANR Final Focus Group Session](#)

December 2, 3–4 pm

Questions?

Email Xin Kaczmarek: xkaczmarek@ucsd.edu





Agricultural Landscape

Haramrit Gill

AL-Pic 10

THANK YOU!

UC ANR Winter Faire

December 18, 2-4 p.m.

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