

Urban Agriculture in Nevada – UNR's role to address food insecurity in Las Vegas

Presentation to Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

Annual Meeting

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College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources



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Mission

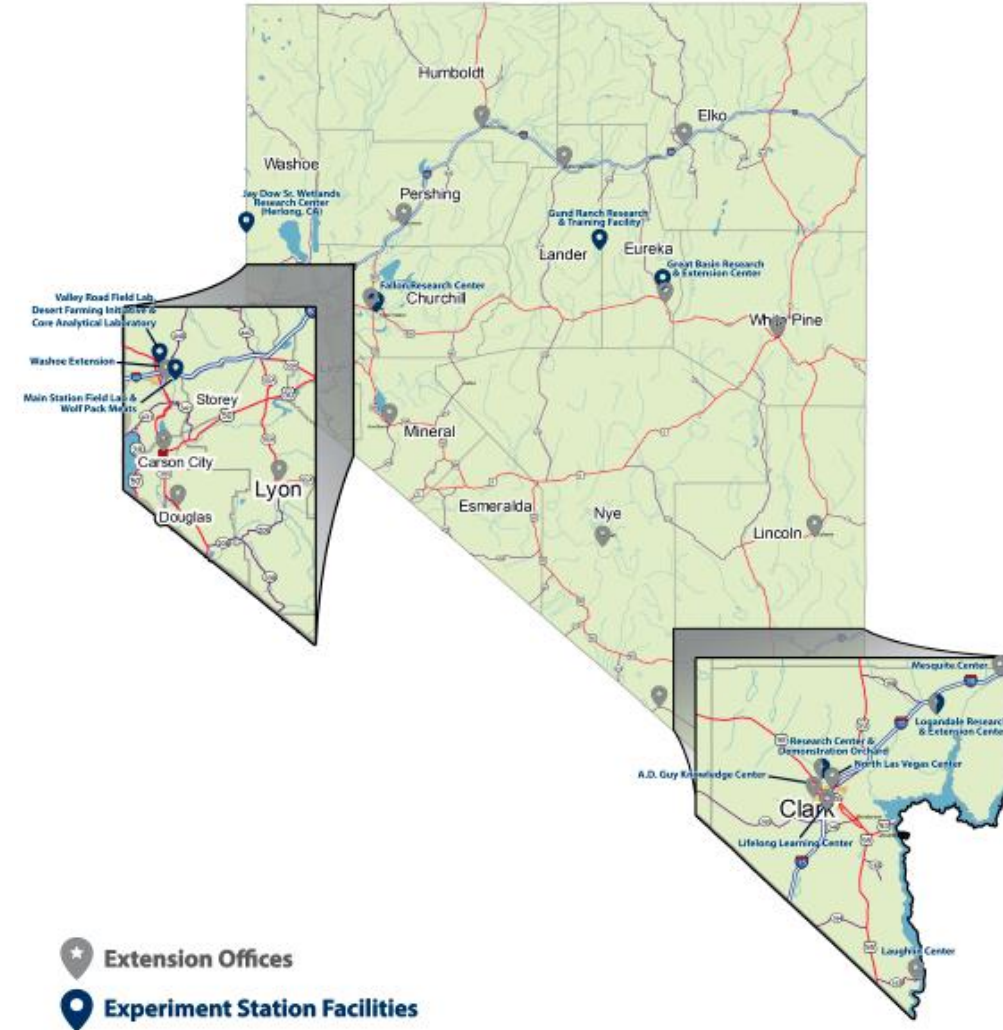
To discover, develop, disseminate, preserve and use knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of people.

Program Locations

- 21 county offices
- 10 research and demonstration gardens
- 2 field labs and Extension centers
- 2 4-H youth development camp sites

People

- 350+ faculty and staff



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Expanding research and education through community programs:

- Children, Youth & Families
- Health & Nutrition
- Community & Economic Development
- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources

Local needs drive programming efforts in each county



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Dr. Naznin

Associate Professor of Urban and Indoor
Agriculture



- High value crops for urban indoor hydroponic vertical farming systems
- Antioxidant-rich vegetable production in an indoor vertical farming system
- Grape resilience and production in Nevada



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Urban Ag: Hydroponics Plants Culture System



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Morphological characteristics of plants grown under various light spectrum



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Contributing to food banks



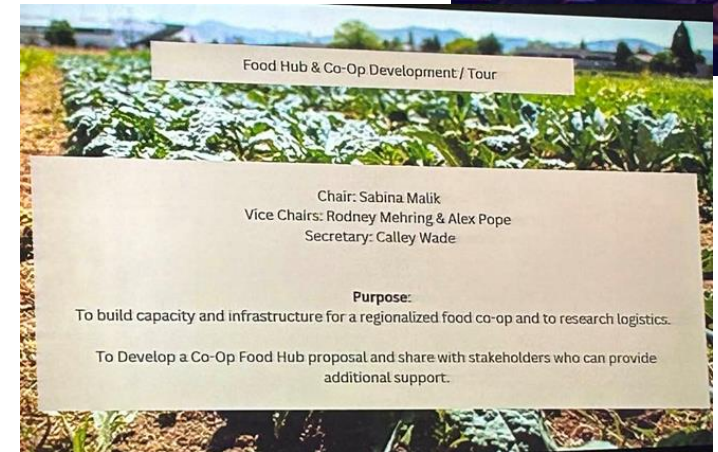
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Southern Nevada Roundtables

Extension in collaboration with Nevada Farm Bureau began an effort in Urban Ag in Southern Nevada in June of 2023.

- The first Ag Roundtable was held in July of 2023 with 15 producers.
- The second Ag Roundtable was held in August with about 40 producers and stakeholders.
- Extension hired an outreach coordinator, and the roundtables grew to more than 120.



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Urban Ag Roundtables - Topics

- **Climate Smart Urban Ag Quality Production**

- Chair: Most Tahera Naznin
- Vice Chair: Laird Sanders

- **Developing Policy**

- Chair: Sabina Malik
- Vice Chair: Marco Rauda
- Roundtable staff support coming online December 1, 2024

- **Farm Fest & Consumer Education**

- Chair: Kyle Reber
- Vice Chair: Katie Combs
- Planning for April Fast Fest with Clark County School District

- **Food Hub/Food Cooperative in Las Vegas**

- Chair: Sabina Malik
- Vice Chairs: Rodney Mehring and Alex Pope
- Extension Received USDA Grant to expand this effort

- **Grant Opportunities**

- Chair Sabina Malik
- Vice Chair: Ali Daniali
- Grant Writing Class was taught by Extension (Staci Emm) of March 2024
- Extension will release its first-ever Request of Application under the Food Business Center December 2, 2024

- **Nevada Farm Network Collaboration**

- Chair: Rodney Mehring
- Vice Chair: Cally Wade
- Secretary: Dillon Davidson

- **Universal Labeling**

- Chair: Dillon Davidson
- Vice Chair: Most Tahera Naznin
- Secretary: Sabina Malik



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Research interests and grants

- USDA TIME grant, \$900,000, Zion Urban Farm – building capacity with newer and smaller urban farms and producers to help them grow.
- USDA healthy Fresh Food Financing Grant, \$150,000 – support ag partners with a location to deliver, process, and distribute products grown in NV to local residents.
- USDA Farmers market Promotion Program grant – develop strategic marketing plan, better brand recognition and on site marketing.
- Southern Nevada Food Council created a healthy food access map. Extension works to showcase what land should be prioritized for urban farms based on these data.
- USDA AMS \$5M, California, Arizona and Utah for the Southwest Regional Food Business Center - to provide support for new food related businesses across the food system to flourish, grow, and connect.



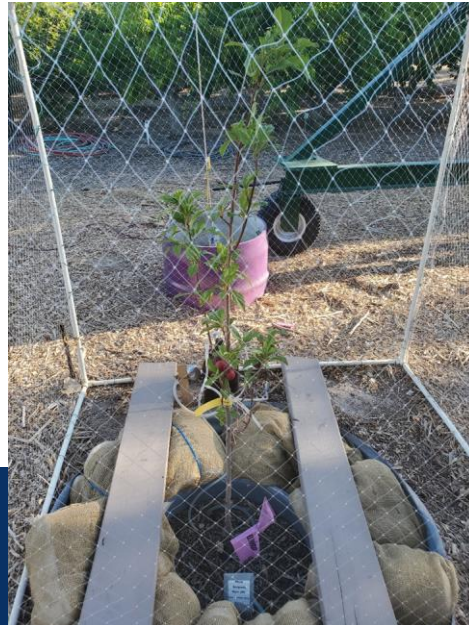
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Research Center and Demonstration Orchard

UNLV Center for Urban Water Conservation

- Pruning on water use and mulch on soil evaporation
- Water needed to produce one plum, one peach, and one apricot
- Quantifying water use for ground cover



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Katelyn Brinkerhoff

Master Gardener – Statewide Coordinator



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What is the purpose of the Extension Master Gardener program?

Growing people, plants, and partnerships.

Who are Extension Master Gardeners and what do they do?

Motivated individuals using gardening to make a difference in their communities



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Southern Nevada: Food Security

17 community gardens throughout southern Nevada

- Provide hands-on education to people who want to grow their own food: planting, growing, harvesting
- Excess food grown is given to food pantries or other community members

Master Gardener Community Education

- Gardening in small spaces
- Growing Under the Stars with Master Gardeners
- Community helpdesk booths
- Outreach programs at local schools, libraries, garden clubs and more



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Our impacts in Southern Nevada

- **202** Certified Master Gardeners & 1st year interns
- **24,216** hours volunteered by Master Gardeners
- **\$810,993.84** worth of volunteer time back to communities
- **4,139** pounds of produce donated
- **89** volunteer projects in southern Nevada



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What is next?

- Another faculty member focused on food insecurity and access
- Building infrastructure for more research and education
- Building partnerships and connectivity
- **Urban Agriculture Extension and Research Center**



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Thank you!

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