

UCD Spin-Off AgriNerds Awarded USDA Small Business Innovation and Research Award

In May of 2021 the USDA announced 24 awards totaling \$2.3 million USD as part of their Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) award program. Of the eight awards given to small business's to improve animal production UC Davis spin-off AgriNerds was granted a \$100,000 award for it's research focused on software and hardware solutions for the poultry industry. The software solutions are focused on validating the best machine learning based methods for predicting production and food safety outcomes and the hardware solutions are focused on the development of a novel egg counting device to reduce the error rates that are currently occurring on many layer farms.

The goal of the USDA-SBIR grant program is to “stimulate technological innovation in the private sector and strengthen the role of federal research and development in support of small businesses, “ according to USDA-NIFA director Dr. Carrie Castille.

AgriNerds is a UC Davis Spin-off co-founded by several UCD faculty and staff. If you are keen to collaborate on either the software or hardware SBIR funded research please contact Dr. Maurice Pitesky at mepitesky@ucdavis.edu