



# THE COMBINE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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## About The Combine

The Combine is a statewide initiative supporting high-growth entrepreneurs in food and agriculture. The program consists of go-to-market support through mentorship and a capital readiness program, networking events, a group of partnering producers across the state, as well as incubation space on the Nebraska Innovation Campus.

## Ag Innovation Happens in Nebraska

In 2023, The Combine took its next step in supporting high-growth entrepreneurs in Nebraska. This year, we've had great success with Combine companies getting to commercialization, raising capital to grow their companies and creating high-paying jobs in Nebraska. This year, we've introduced 12 companies to the incubator who've started the curriculum process and graduated 3 from the incubator. The Combine staff has made a great effort to increase involvement with the local community through participating in Lincoln Startup Week and hosting various groups such as the Midwest International Trade Association, the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, EF Polymer company from India and Japan, Lincoln Council of International Visitors and the University Technology Development Corporation. The staff has also been busy hosting events across the state, meeting with producers, and attending local conferences. The Combine hosted the AgTech Connect Conference on July 20th at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. We brought together over 250 attendees to celebrate and collaborate in the agricultural technology space. This included producers, corporations, investors, and startups. The Combine and Nebraska AgTech ecosystem continues to grow, and we couldn't have done it without the great entrepreneurs, partners, and mentors.

- The Invest Nebraska Team



## Founding Sponsors



## Visionary Sponsors



## Statewide Sponsors



## Supporting Sponsors





# 2023 Program Metrics To-Date



Number of Companies

18



Number of Incubator Alumni

8



Jobs Created

60



Internships Offered

46



Venture Capital Raised

\$15.555M



Grants Received

\$5.698M

## The Combine Monthly Newsletter

Program updates delivered to your inbox once a month. Sign Up Now:

[NebraskaCombine.com](https://NebraskaCombine.com)



# 2023 Insights Network

## MEMBERS OF THE INSIGHTS NETWORK:

- **Farmers & Producers Across Nebraska**
- **Assist Entrepreneurs In Customer Discovery**
  - Assisting entrepreneurs through properly defining problems faced in the industry as well as on site feedback.
- **Participate in Pilot Projects**
  - On farm/ranch trials for in-the-field testing and producer feedback on the startup's products.

103  
*members*

85  
*communities*



The Insights Network was created to help bridge the gap between agricultural startups and Nebraska producers. The network allows for quick and comprehensive feedback to startups along with real world scenario testing. Meanwhile, producers are exposed to potential technology advancements on their operation and the opportunity to help shape future developments. Current operations grow the following crops: corn,

wheat, soybeans, alfalfa, popcorn, white corn, peas, seed corn, dry beans, sunflowers, oats, millet, sugar beets, sorghum, cover crops, and vegetable production. Various aspects of the livestock industry are represented including cow/calf, backgrounding, finishing, dairy barns, nursery-to-finish hog production, and pullet raising to egg production.

# 2023 AgTech Connect Conference



**AgTech  
Connect**

- 250+ Attendees
- Keynote Speaker, Governor Pillen
- 5 AgTech Startup Pitches
- Corporate Ag Industry Panel
- Ag Producers Panel



On July 20, 2023, the second annual AgTech Connect Conference took place. AgTech Connect was a full-day program focused on celebrating agriculture technology in the midwest.

Over 250 people gathered for the event, and numerous valuable connections were made throughout the conference during networking breaks, roundtable discussions, and happy hour.

Mark your calendars for the 2024 AgTech Connect on July 17, 2024, at Nebraska Innovation Campus. These premium-level program sponsors made the event possible:







THE COMBINE

THE COMBINE

COMPANIES

## Combine Incubator Companies

### American Edge Grain



**Company Description:** American Edge Grain (AEG) is the first data-driven, virtual Grain Attribute Exchange to connect farmers who have grain with premium attributes with the end-users that need them. AEG offers a fully transparent, end-to-end service – from procurement to sales and delivery. This includes grain management and certification, attribute analysis, real-time bushel availability, pricing, logistics and delivery.

**Location:** Elm Creek, Nebraska

### Lazy FA Fencing



**Company Description:** Lazy FA Fencing is a hardware and software solution to help alert cattle ranchers when their fence is down. Livestock producers today still face the same challenge producers faced in 1936 when electric fencing started, and that's the problem when the fence shorts out, you don't know where the problem occurs. Many producers don't have a more efficient way to find the short other than picking a starting point and driving around the whole fence until you find the problem. This inefficiency expends valuable time, resources, and labor. It also causes headaches and adds to mounting frustration.

**Location:** Gothenburg, Nebraska

### Nave Analytics



**Company Description:** Nave Analytics helps agriculture professionals recommend the correct amount of water at the correct time to their farmer customers by fusing satellite, weather, and telemetry data into a singular data stream. Nave Analytics generates sensor-free 3-D maps of soil water content across the entire field and offers an API integration with the customer's existing user interface.

**Location:** Kearney, Nebraska

## Combine Incubator Companies

### Cattle Kettle



**Company Description:** Cattle Kettle is a livestock management system centered around cattle tanks. Their product works to track tank metrics in real time and allows for the remote-control automation of the tank through their app and website. With this automation, ranchers will save countless hours and dollars that they would originally spend driving out, checking, and fixing their tanks.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska

### BovEye



**Company Description:** BovEye uses satellite imagery and AI-enabled computer vision models to automate inventory inspections for cattle in feedyards or on rangeland. BovEye's remote inspections help financial institutions verify cattle inventory anywhere in the world with a click of a button, at a speed, frequency, and cost not possible with other alternatives. By increasing asset visibility and automating monotony, BovEye helps organizations optimize their scarce labor resources and mitigate the risk of fraud.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska

### Viosimos Agriculture



**Company Description:** Viosimos Agriculture LLC is working on developing biological fungicides. Their mission is to create sustainable solutions to crop disease. They are currently focused on soil fungal diseases and creating a non-toxic, effective treatment.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska



## Combine Incubator Companies

### EZ Grazer



**Company Description:** The EZ Grazer system offers a more natural feeding solution compared to conventional feeder options, simulating the natural grazing behavior essential to horse's health and well-being. The EZ-Grazer offers a systems approach to feeding horses with an entire product line to feed all bale types (small square, large round, large square) during travel and in a horse lot.

**Location:** Firth, Nebraska

### MTE BioTech



**Company Description:** MTE is a biotech company which specializes in using exotic microbes to produce high-quality enzymes and chemicals from agricultural and municipal waste. MTE turns low-value starting materials into high-value renewable resources without competing with food or feed.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska

### TYNI Ventures



TYNI Ventures

**Company Description:** TYNI Ventures is developing an AI-guided laser weeding drone for precise and selective removal of weeds in agricultural fields. The company is currently at an early stage.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska

## Combine Incubator Companies



### DARO

**Company Description:** DARO is revolutionizing farm resiliency with cutting-edge pathogen surveillance systems. By harnessing the most effective strategies learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, DARO is enhancing livestock health, productivity, and biosecurity. DARO's innovative solutions provide near real-time monitoring and analysis to detect, forecast, and prevent diseases, empowering farmers to make informed decisions for optimal management and improved outcomes.

**Location:** Elkhorn, Nebraska



### Farmstead Sense

**Company Description:** Farmstead Sense is automating the crop scouting process to generate “prescription map generation for crop inputs” in pivot irrigated farms with edge image processing and long-range low-power communication protocols technologies.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska



### Bullseye Gx

**Company Description:** Bullseye Gx is a targeted genetic testing service focused on supporting the needs of beef cattle producers, veterinarians, and feedlot operators with an initial focus on Bovine Congestive Heart Failure. The mission of Bullseye GX is to provide value to those that work hard every day to provide protein for a growing population.

**Location:** Kearney, Nebraska

**BullseyeGX**®

## Combine Incubator Companies

### HoofTrack

**Company Description:** HoofTrack is creating new technology that will objectively evaluate and score the anatomy of an animal's hoof and leg. This results in the ability to comparatively analyze skeletal correctness in relation to an animal's contemporaries.

**Location:** Odell, Nebraska

### Precision Vaccine Technologies

**Company Description:** Precision Vaccine Technologies aims to develop a novel platform for the rapid development of vaccines against animal pathogens.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska



## Combine Incubator Alumni

### Terrace Ag

**Company Description:** Terrace Ag is an end-to-end software solution for farmland valuations. The platform enables ag land appraisals or evaluations to be performed 40% faster through data, integration and automation. The company allows farm managers and rural land appraisers to access sales database, GIS mapping, comparable sales, and report writing all in one platform. The company is now integrated with Farm Credit Services of America.

**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska



### Grain Weevil

**Company Description:** The Grain Weevil is a grain safety and management robot that protects people and profits by controlling risk, reducing costs, and actively optimizing stored grain. Grain bins are dirty, dangerous workplaces and we keep that farmer with a shovel out of the bin by doing the work that no human should. Our mission: No Boots in the Grain.

**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska



### Birds Eye Robotics

**Company Description:** Birds Eye Robotics aims to solve the labor issue in the poultry industry through robotic automation to improve animal welfare.

**Location:** Herman, Nebraska



## Combine Incubator Alumni

### Sentinel Fertigation



**Company Description:** Sentinel Fertigation provides image-based agronomic intelligence for optimal nutrient management through its N-Time software. N-Time provides farmers and their agronomists the tools necessary to improve efficiency, profitability, productivity, and environmental stewardship.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska

### Corral Technologies



**Company Description:** Corral Technologies allows producers to remotely move, track, and contain thief cattle using Corral's virtual fencing system. Ranching operations are utilizing Corral's system to increase their herd sizes by over 35% while incurring fewer labor and material costs.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska

### Bluestem Biosciences



**Company Description:** Bluestem focuses on the sustainable bio-production of chemicals through anaerobic fermentation. The company aims to produce these chemicals on an industrial scale. Their mission to diversify and decarbonize the chemical industry begins with purpose-built biology for existing infrastructure.

**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska

## Combine Incubator Alumni

### Treadsure

**Company Description:** TreadSure aims to create a stand-alone solution that brings current disparate data sources in user manuals and field sales representatives' information to improve the resale process of agriculture tires.

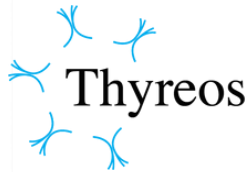
**Location:** Gothenburg, Nebraska



### Thyreos Vaccines

**Company Description:** The Thyreos R2 platform is a major breakthrough that allows for creation of effective vaccines against many herpesviruses that infect humans and a wide range of companion animals and livestock. The company's roadmap includes the human-health market. Initial commercial opportunities are focused on the animal health space.

**Location:** Lincoln, Nebraska



### Idem Irrigation

**Company Description:** Idem developed a patent-pending pivot sprinkler head technology. The technology aims to increase moisture percentage, deepen root growth, and reduce crop stress days.

**Location:** Gering, Nebraska



## Combine Startups-In-Residence



### ALA Engineering

**Company Description:** ALA Engineering is a Nebraska-based startup developing robotics and self-driving technologies to revolutionize the cattle feeding and finishing industry.

**Status:** Startup-In-Residence



### EIO Diagnostics

**Company Description:** EIO Diagnostics helps dairy farmers stop mastitis infections before they start. The UdderHealth™ Mastitis system combines advanced sensors and machine learning to detect infection signs days before there are physical indications in the udder or milk. Results are provided in less than a second without the need for samples from the milk or the cow, and a signal is provided instantly that integrates with the workflow of the farm.

**Status:** Startup-In-Residence

### Micro MGX

**Company Description:** The MGx platform technology, developed by MicroMGx, discovers new chemistry by harnessing the power of the world's best chemists: microbes. Microbes have been creating and modifying chemicals to do specific tasks for over 4 billion years. Nature created a bacteria that causes onion center rot, which led to the discovery of a new chemical naturally produced by this bacterial strain. MicroMGx tested the active ingredients and now are developing this chemical into a broad-spectrum herbicide.

**Status:** Startup-In-Residence





## Combine Startups-In-Residence

### FarmAfield

**Company Description:** FarmAfield is an online marketplace streamlining capital deployments in the ag sector. The marketplace allows for the purchase of real agricultural assets and complimentary risk management strategies. The company is currently partnering with the Department of Energy to conduct a feasibility study of utilizing the platform to increase capital to solar projects in agriculture.

**Status:** Startup-In-Residence



## Notable Former Combine Start-ups-In-Residence

### Marble Technologies



**Company Description:** Marble Technologies is based in Lincoln and Cambridge Massachusetts. The company aims to support food systems using AI, robotics, and process engineering to add resiliency to the agri-food supply chain. Starting with meat processing (specifically beef and pork) they are automating tasks to mitigate industry-wide labor shortages.

**Status:** Former Startup-In-Residence

### CropX



**Company Description:** CropX is an ag-analytics company that has developed advanced adaptive irrigation services, which automatically optimizes irrigation, thereby delivering dramatic crop yield increase and water and energy cost savings to farms. CropX's technology was developed by a team of world-leading scientists and has been validated on-farm over the past five years. In addition to their Midwest team, the company has offices in Israel and California. In 2022 the company announced as partnership with the John Deere Operations Center.

**Status:** Former Startup-In-Residence

### GreenEye



**Company Description:** Greeneye Technologies is an Israeli-based precision ag company expanding to the US. Greeneye utilizes artificial intelligence and deep-learning technology to transition from the practice of broadcast and wasteful spraying of pesticides to precise spraying in real time. In 2022, the company developed field trials with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agricultural Research Division (ARD) to benchmark the performance of its proprietary AI precision spraying system against broadcast application of herbicides.

**Status:** Former Startup-In-Residence

## 2023 The Daughtery Water for Food Global Institute leads new \$19 Million USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab



The Innovation Lab will generate research-based evidence to support the growth of vibrant irrigation and mechanization markets, develop strong institutions and local capacity for their sustainability, and foster opportunities for equitable access in Feed the Future focal countries. The \$19 million core fund is provided over a five-year term with a potential extension to an overall ceiling of \$40 million.

Feed the Future investments in global research led by U.S. land-grant universities such as University of Nebraska, bring major returns to U.S. farmers and consumers through scientific innovations in crop and food systems and better coordination of scarce natural resources. The programs also strengthen farmer resilience to shocks and enable countries to mitigate and respond to crises, reducing the need for emergency assistance.



# 10 Top National AgTech Developments from 2023

1

## InnerPlant, John Deere, Syngenta to Develop Integrated Precision Platform



InnerPlant, Syngenta, and John Deere have announced a collaboration to develop an integrated solution for fighting fungus in soybeans. The joint effort aims to link these early signals with optimized crop protection treatments using John Deere's See & Spray technology, offering farmers a more efficient and precise approach to combatting fungal diseases and addressing the increasing challenges posed by climate change and resistance to fungicides in global agriculture.

2

## Indigo Ag Accelerates Proven Sustainability Programs with \$250 Million Fundraise



Indigo Ag has secured over \$250 million in funding to advance its sustainable agriculture initiatives, attracting support from existing investors like Flagship Pioneering and new backers such as the State of Michigan Retirement System and Lingotto Investment Management. The funding affirms confidence in Indigo's ability to drive success for farmers at scale while addressing climate challenges. The company has experienced substantial growth, with a 40% YoY increase in net revenues in 2022 and a 90% growth in the first seven months of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

3

## AGCO to Acquire Trimble Ag Assets and Technologies Through a Joint Venture



AGCO Corporation has entered into a joint venture with Trimble, acquiring an 85% interest in Trimble's agricultural assets and technologies for \$2.0 billion. The collaboration aims to create a leading mixed-fleet Precision Ag platform exclusive to Trimble Ag's comprehensive technology offering, providing solutions across the crop cycle, from land preparation to harvest, and accelerating AGCO's growth ambitions in autonomy, precision spraying, connected farming, data management, and sustainability.

4

## SwarmFarm Lands \$8.3m to Move Autonomous Farming Beyond Driverless Tractors



SwarmFarm, an Australian autonomous farming platform, has raised \$8.3 million in a Series A round led by Conexus Venture Capital's Emmertech fund, with participation from Tribe Global Ventures and Access Capital. The funds will be used to further develop SwarmFarm's hardware-software platform, combining its autonomous SwarmBot vehicles with SwarmConnect, an operating system network that enables farmers and developers to customize the platform for specific agricultural needs, addressing labor shortages and promoting sustainability in farming practices.

5

## Grit Road Plants \$11M Venture Fund to Cultivate AgTech Solutions Across Midwest



Nebraska-based venture fund Grit Road Partners, which focuses on investing in ag tech companies addressing problems faced by Midwest producers, recently closed an \$11 million funding round. Managed by Mike Jung, the fund has already made 12 investments, including startups in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wyoming, and Texas, aiming to support innovations that genuinely understand the needs of producers and processors in the agricultural sector.



## 10 Top National AgTech Developments from 2023 Cont.

6



### **Cargill Regenconnect® and John Deere Announce Collaboration**

Cargill and John Deere have collaborated to streamline the digital and in-field experience for farmers participating in the Cargill RegenConnect program, which provides financial incentives for adopting regenerative agriculture practices. Using John Deere's precision ag technology and digital platform, Operations Center, farmers can implement and document practices, synchronize data flow, and enroll in the Cargill RegenConnect program, aiming to save time, enhance data accuracy, and provide a comprehensive view of their operations for better sustainability and profitability decisions.

7



### **Farmers Business Network Launches Farmland Evaluation System, AcreVisionSM**

Farmers Business Network (FBN) has launched AcreVision, a free solution designed to assist U.S. farmers in making informed decisions about land purchases. AcreVision provides comprehensive information, consolidating essential data about farmland parcels and local market trends into a single, user-friendly report, allowing farmers to evaluate potential parcels instantly and at no cost.

8



### **Insignum AgTech and Beck's Collaborate to Help Corn 'Talk'**

Insignum AgTech and Beck's have entered into an agreement to test Insignum's innovative corn traits in Beck's elite varieties, aiming to evaluate the commercial viability of the traits. Insignum AgTech develops plant genetic traits that allow plants to signal to farmers when specific stresses, such as fungal infections or insect pests, begin, enabling precise and sustainable treatment to improve crop health and yields.

9



### **CropX Acquires Precision Irrigation Startup Tule, Its Fourth Acquisition**

CropX, an ag analytics company, has acquired precision irrigation startup Tule Technologies to enhance its farm recommendations platform with additional crop data and insights. This marks CropX's fourth acquisition since early 2020 and provides the company with Tule's technology for data collection from above the plant canopy, contributing to better predictions and recommendations for efficient water management, particularly in regions facing drought challenges.

10



### **Bushel® Transforms Management Software with Automated Entry of Grain Contracts**

Agricultural software technology company Bushel has introduced automated grain contract entry in its farm management software, Bushel Farm, benefiting both farmers and grain buyers. The feature allows farmers to connect their Bushel Farm accounts to their accounts with grain buyers in the Bushel Network, reducing manual data entry and providing real-time automated insights, including grain marketing position and profit and loss at the field level.

## THE NEBRASKA CORN BOARD

Through responsible stewardship, new genetics, and improved management practices, Nebraska corn farmers are growing more corn with less – less fertilizer, less chemicals, less water, less land, and less of an impact on the environment. Sustaining innovation – an unwavering commitment to doing a better job in every row, on every acre, on every farm, every season. It’s how family corn farmers in Nebraska and the nation are ensuring the long-term viability of their industry and our natural resources.



# THE PLANT THAT CAN CHANGE THE PLANET

Corn has long been recognized as a versatile crop that goes into essential everyday items. With innovations in farming and the production of environmentally friendly corn-made ethanol, Nebraska’s corn farmers are actively protecting the future of our planet.

LIVE GREENER

Nebraska’s corn farmers – and their fellow corn farmers across the U.S. – continue to make significant advancements that have a direct impact on the sustainability of corn production and the natural, environmental and social systems that are connected to it. These growers are among the first to adapt new technologies and innovation.



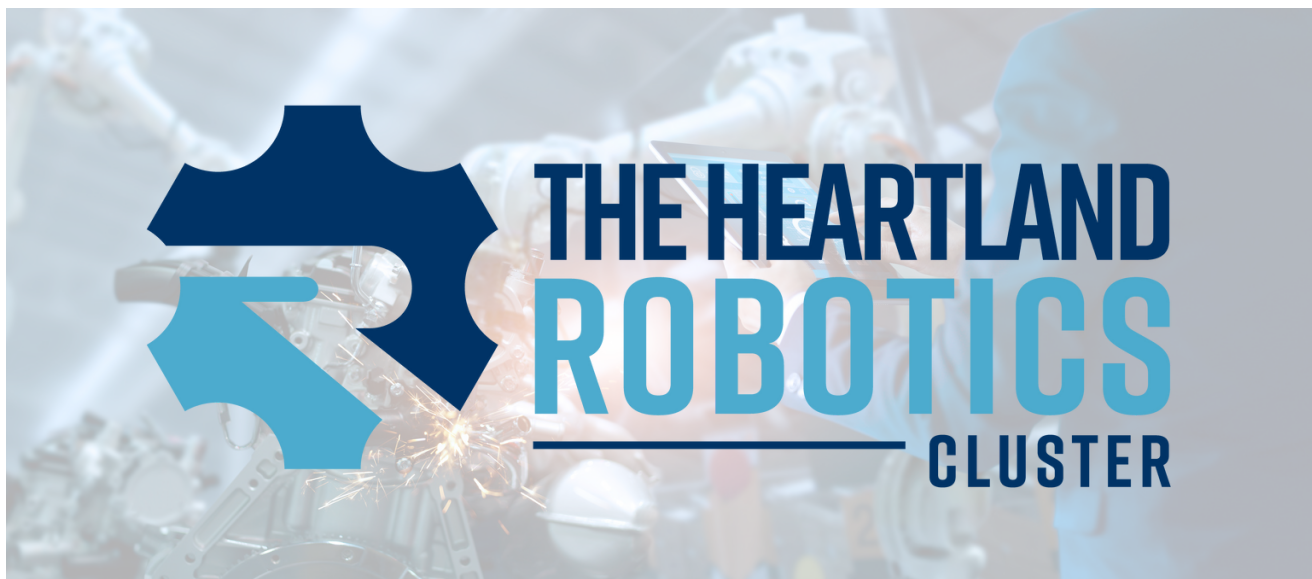
VISIONARY SPONSOR OF THE COMBINE



## Heartland Robotics Cluster Progresses in Building Robotics Pipeline in Nebraska

The Heartland Robotics Cluster was one of 21 finalists awarded a multi-year grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The \$25 million of grant funding will be utilized to: develop an automation demo space and program for Nebraska manufacturers led by the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership, grow the robotics engineering curriculum for undergraduate students, and build R&D robotic lab space at the UNL College of Engineering, create an automation fabrication lab managed by Northeast Community College, develop urban ag/robotics outreach and training by Metro Community College, expand the robotics makers space at Nebraska Innovation Studio, and increase technical assistance for robotic AgTech startups managed by The Combine.

The Heartland Robotics Cluster hosted the Heartland Robotics and Automation Conference on October 25th at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center. It brought together 180+ attendees, including undergrad and postgrad students, industry professionals, and academia to explore the latest trends and advancements in the world of robotics and automation. The conference featured expert keynote speakers, panel discussions, and demonstration activities, providing attendees with a wealth of information on robotics and automation combined with fantastic opportunities for networking and collaboration.



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# 10 Top Nebraska AgTech Developments from 2023

1



## BlueStem Biosciences named 1 of 4 winners of the Consider Corn Challenge IV

The National Corn Growers Association announced the winners of the Consider Corn Challenge IV at the Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership 2023 Conference in San Francisco. Among the winners is Bluestem Biosciences, which has developed novel yeast biology for the sustainable anaerobic bio-production of 3-Hydroxypropionic acid (3-HP), a chemical intermediate for the acrylates chemical family, aiming to reduce dependence on petroleum for feedstock and utilize corn as the primary feedstock.

2



## AgTech Nation Receives U.S. Small Business Administration Award

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named AgTech Nation, a nationwide AgriFood Innovation Network catalyzed by AgStart, as a Stage Two winner for the 2023 Growth Accelerator Fund Competition. AgTech Nation, which will receive a \$150,000 award, aims to create a national ecosystem to support the launch, growth, and scale-up of STEM/R&D-focused small businesses in the agrifood sector, fostering collaboration among leading agrifood-focused entrepreneur-support organizations across the United States.

3



## Idem Irrigation Announces Seed Funding

Nebraska-based Idem Irrigation has successfully completed a \$500,000 seed funding round to support the development and deployment of its patent-pending pivot sprinkler head technology. The funding will be used to expand the company's team, streamline manufacturing, enhance product inventory, and advance research and development efforts, with a focus on sales and marketing expansion.

4



## Birds Eye Robotics and USDA Announce Partnership

Birds Eye Robotics, a poultry robotics technology company, has been awarded a \$650,000 Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funding will support the development of the Caretaker Robot, an autonomous, in-barn solution designed to reduce labor costs, enhance bird welfare, and improve performance in the poultry industry.

5



## Thyreos Inc. Closes \$1 Million Series Seed B Round and Receives \$1.6 Million Grant

Thyreos Inc., a vaccine startup, has successfully closed a \$1 million series seed B round of financing and secured a \$1.6 million NIH NIAID STTR Fast-Track grant for the preclinical development of an HSV-2 non-neuroinvasive live-attenuated vaccine. The vaccine, based on Thyreos R2<sup>®</sup> technology, aims to provide uncompromised protection against HSV-2, a sexually transmitted infection responsible for painful symptoms affecting millions of people and causing potential long-term neurologic deficits, especially in neonates during birth.



# 10 Top Nebraska AgTech Developments from 2023 Cont.

6

## Idem Irrigation in Nebraska Advances in Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge



Irrigation has made significant strides in the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge by introducing innovative drop attachments for center pivots, aiming to enhance water distribution to crops with greater efficiency. Recognizing the importance of resource conservation, especially water, Idem Irrigation's technology represents a transformative approach to modernizing center pivot systems for more effective stewardship of agricultural resources.

7

## Sentinel Closes Seed Funding Round with \$2.5 million Raised from Investment Groups



Sentinel Fertigation has successfully closed a \$2.5 million seed funding round led by Homegrown Capital, Grit Road Partners, and Invest Nebraska. The funding will support the expansion of Sentinel's N-Time® nitrogen management software, which uses crop canopy imagery analysis to provide efficient nitrogen management recommendations, aiming to optimize crop productivity, farm profitability, and environmental stewardship.

8

## Grain Weevil announced as Nebraska Business Development Center's 2022 Innovation Business of the Year



Grain Weevil, an innovation by Chad and Ben Johnson, has been honored as the 2022 Innovation Business of the Year by the Nebraska Business Development Center. The autonomous robot developed by Grain Weevil aims to enhance safety in grain bins by eliminating the need for human entry, conducting tasks such as leveling grain, breaking crusts, and feeding grain into extraction augers.

9

## Lindsay Announces Acquisition of Fieldwise



Lindsay Corporation, a global leader in irrigation and infrastructure technology, has acquired FieldWise, a Nebraska-based agricultural technology company specializing in precision irrigation solutions. The acquisition will enhance Lindsay's presence in the smart irrigation and AgTech markets, combining the strengths of FieldWise's innovative solutions with Lindsay's existing FieldNET brand, expanding their customer base and distribution network.

10

## LaunchLNK 2023 Recipients Announced – Three Combine Companies in the Cohort



The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) has unveiled the five local startups selected for the 2023 LaunchLNK program. The cohort, which receives five grants totaling \$125,000 along with other services and support, aims to help scalable, high-growth startups thrive in Lincoln, contributing to the vibrant local startup ecosystem, included three Combine Companies.