



FOR MARCH 19, 2019 RELEASE

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NEBULLAM AND LEAH LABORATORIES PRESENT AT Y COMBINATOR DEMO DAY

AMES, Iowa, March 19, 2019 – Ag Startup Engine (ASE), at the [Iowa State University \(ISU\) Research Park](#), announced that two of their Iowa-based portfolio companies, [Nebullam](#) and [LEAH Laboratories](#), were selected in [Y Combinator](#)'s (YC) winter cohort accelerator program which includes an early seed investment of \$150,000, mentorship, and educational resources through a 90 day program that culminates in a two-day demo located in San Francisco, CA. This is the first time that two Iowa-built, Iowa-based startups were selected for Y Combinator.

Out of approximately 12,000 applicants, 205 were selected for the YC winter cohort in San Francisco. Recently, YC released its most successful companies since it began backing startups in 2005. These companies include Airbnb, Dropbox, Coinbase, Instacart, and Reddit, among other "unicorns", companies worth over one billion dollar valuations. YC is unique by not just providing investment and 90 days of coaching, but standing with their alumni of companies through their entirety.

"This was the lowest acceptance rate by YC to date," said Joel Harris, co-director of Ag Startup Engine. "In spite of that, two Iowa built and based companies, both from the Ag Startup Engine portfolio and with ties to Iowa State University, were selected. Recognition from a leading program like Y Combinator is terrific for Nebullam and LEAH Laboratories, but also an inspiration for other entrepreneurs about the quality of technology businesses being started in the Heartland."

LEAH (LifEngine Animal Health) Labs' technology uses licensed, patent pending technology that enables reprogramming of genomes through gene editing, creating new therapies mediated by immune cells. This therapy will first target lymphoma, which accounts for 83 percent of all canine blood cell malignancies and is the most commonly managed cancer in veterinary oncology.

Founded in 2016, Nebullam is building ultra-local indoor farms that provide year-round produce to grocers and restaurants. Today, the company is operating a 1,400 square foot indoor farm within the Iowa State University Research Park. With their growing customer base in Ames, they have recently received LOIs from leading Midwest grocers and other strategic distribution partners, while simultaneously continuing to drive down operations costs from their automated hardware and software components. Nebullam had previously gone through YC's Startup School, a 10-week online program that provides mentorship and a startup network with more than 2880 founders across 140 countries.

The Ag Startup Engine was launched two and one-half years ago to help address two fundamental gaps that prevent agricultural startups and entrepreneurs from being more successful: early seed-stage investment and organized mentorship from successful entrepreneurs. Recently, they announced that the aggregate impact of ASE's portfolio companies was almost 100 jobs and over \$15 million in additional capital raised for the nine startups. Over the next year, the ASE hopes to add six more agriculture technology startups like Nebullam and LEAH Labs to the portfolio ranging from animal health to precision agriculture.

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