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AG STARTUP ENGINE ANNOUNCES INITIAL INVESTMENT IN LEAH LABORATORIES

AMES, Iowa, January 15, 2019 – Ag Startup Engine (ASE), at the [Iowa State University \(ISU\) Research Park](#), announced that it has made an initial seed investment in [LEAH Laboratories](#) - an animal health startup focused on a breakthrough treatment that will control and cure B cell lymphoma in dogs with lower costs and side effects when compared to traditional treatments. This is the eighth startup ASE has invested in since formation in 2016.

LEAH (LifEngine Animal Health) Labs' technology enables precision gene editing for treatment of lymphoma, which accounts for 83 percent of all canine blood cell malignancies and is the most commonly managed cancer in veterinary oncology. One million dogs die from B cell lymphoma every year in the United States alone. LEAH Labs uses licensed, patent pending technology that enables reprogramming of the canine genome through gene editing, creating new therapies mediated by the dog's own immune cells.

"ASE's demonstrated support for start-ups with roots in the heart of Iowa is exactly why they are a great early investor in LEAH Labs," said Dr Wesley Wierson, CEO of LEAH Labs. "This investment accelerates LEAH Labs' product development and will help our technology get into the clinic faster. We are excited to forge a partnership with ASE and continue creating biotechnology buzz in Iowa."

LEAH Labs joins their fellow Iowa-based startups Performance Livestock Analytics, Nebullam, Gross-Wen Technologies, Smart Ag, FarmlandFinder, TractorZoom, and automed in the portfolio of companies in the Ag Startup Engine Fund. ASE aims to provide agricultural entrepreneurs a structured means of moving from a startup concept to investment-ready business.

"Dr. Wierson made considerable progress in developing LEAH technology while completing his PhD at Iowa State University in Molecular, Cellular, and Development Biology and has surrounded himself and the business with a very impressive group of mentors and advisers," said Kevin Kimle, co-director of ASE. "LEAH's partnerships with leading veterinarian and health care providers is also impressive. The plans are an Iowa State University Research Park presence for the business, and the market potential for LEAH's technology beyond its initial target market make it a good fit for Ag Startup Engine investment."

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The Ag Startup Engine was launched in 2016 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.

Visit www.agstartupengine.com for more information.