

NEWS: Applications Open for Statewide Bootcamp for Tennessee Agricultural Innovation Startups

Applications Due May 15

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (March 4, 2019) — AgLaunch and the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center are again partnering for a week-long agri-tech bootcamp to support Tennessee agriculture startup teams. The bootcamp will be held on the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville from July 8-12, 2019. Teams accepted into the program will experience best-in-class agricultural entrepreneurship programming and have access to investors, mentors, and farmers.

Eligible applicants must be located in Tennessee and should be focused on addressing real problems in agriculture within the crop and livestock sectors and all along the food value-chain. Teams can include:

- Small startup companies operating in the agricultural sector;
- Existing companies that are creating new innovations or product lines; and
- Student or faculty teams that are developing new innovations in agriculture.

"The AgLaunch Bootcamp offered us an intensive examination of our company, both in preparing ourselves for market and initial capital investment. The support, resources, and access to professional mentors helped us to think strategically as we constructed a solid foundation for our company's future growth and success," said Mark Johnson, founder and CEO of Newton RFID and last year's bootcamp participant.

Building on a last year's bootcamp, programming for 2019 will include farm tours and sessions focused on marketing, venture capital, working with land-grant universities, and field design and research. Teams will receive instruction from Tennessee partners like University of Tennessee Research Foundation, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Agricenter International, Archer Malmo, Baker Donelson, and others.

Applications are being accepted through 5 pm EST on May 15, 2019. Tennessee-based entrepreneurs with an idea or an agtech startup who are interested in the intensive bootcamp can apply here. For more information, contact Schuyler Dalton at sdalton@aglaunch.com.

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About AgLaunch

AgLaunch is revolutionizing the way that innovations in agriculture and food are brought to market by bridging the present and future to grow a more diverse and sustainable farm economy and provide healthy food for all. AgLaunch leverages its distributed network of farm incubators, entrepreneurial farmers, aligned capital partners, research consortia, technical consulting, and best-in-class accelerator programming to effectively challenge the status quo and thoughtfully create value for farmers and the

communities they serve. The AgLaunch vision is a transformed regional agriculture and food economy centered around farmers, innovation, and prosperity.

About Knoxville Entrepreneurship Center

Knoxville Entrepreneur Center is a business accelerator located in Market Square that serves as the front door for entrepreneurs in our region, and a resource for anyone looking to start or grow a business here. By nurturing and supporting a culture of entrepreneurship, we are fostering innovation, creativity and job growth within our community. KEC is a place for networking, education and teaching others what we've learned. We are a mentor-driven business accelerator, a shared workspace and a source of mediocre coffee. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, KEC is funded through sponsorships, partnerships, grants and membership fees. In addition to support from the City of Knoxville and the State of Tennessee, KEC relies on the generous contributions of leading East Tennessee corporations, successful entrepreneurs and those who have a vested interest in the success of new businesses in our region.