

# NEBRASKA AGTECH INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM 2024

## LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORT

### University Programs



- NUtech Ventures
- Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program
- Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Center for Entrepreneurship at UNL
- Center for Entrepreneurship & Rural Development at UNK
- Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Franchising at UNO
- Weibling Entrepreneurship Clinic
- UNL Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS)

### Community Builders



- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development
- Silicon Prairie News
- StartupLNK
- Pipeline
- 1 Million Cups
- Lincoln Startup Week
- Nebraska Innovation Studio
- Nebraska Startup Academy

### Co-working spaces

- Nebraska Innovation Campus
- Millwork Commons
- Turbine Flats
- FUSE Co-working
- Intersect Co-working

### Incubators & Accelerators



- The Combine
- NMotion
- Biotech Connector

### Investors

- Invest Nebraska
- Grit Road Partners
- MOVE Venture Capital
- Proven Ventures
- Nebraska Angels
- Nelnet Ventures
- Husker Venture Fund
- Black Dog Venture Partners

### Robotics and Automation

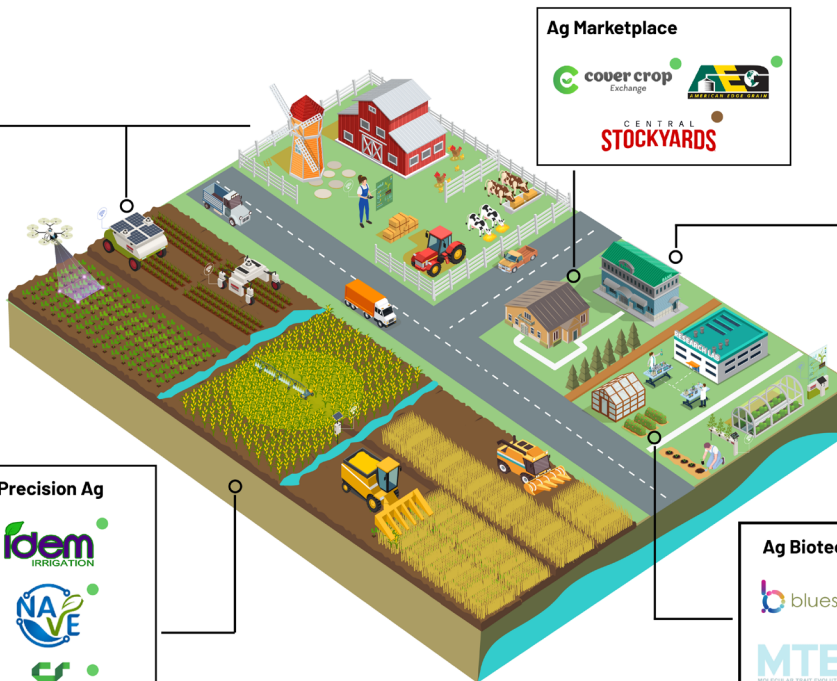
- Crops
- Livestock/Poultry

### Farm Management & Precision Ag

### Ag Marketplace

### Ag Fintech

### Ag Biotech



## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

### Corporations



- Valmont Industries
- Lindsay Corporation
- Reinke Irrigation
- Scoular
- Claas

### Industry Groups

- Nebraska Farm Bureau
- Nebraska Beef Council
- Nebraska Cattlemen
- Nebraska Corn Board
- Nebraska Soybean Board
- Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board
- Nebraska Cattlemen
- Nebraska Corn Growers Association
- Nebraska Soybean Association
- Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealer Association

### Other Partners



- The Nature Conservancy
- Farm Credit Services of America

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# NEBRASKA AGTECH INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM 2024

The Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute and Invest Nebraska released their first “Nebraska agtech startup ecosystem map” in 2021. Since then, more than 10 new agtech startups have been founded in Nebraska. At the same time, the broader innovation ecosystem has grown, contributing to the state’s economic development. Our 2024 agtech innovation map looks at the evolving and expanding entrepreneurial landscape in Nebraska.

We consider startups founded or headquartered in Nebraska that deliver value propositions within crop or animal production value chains. For our 2024 map, we define five categories of agtech startups based on the nature of their innovation.

1. **Robotics and Automation** startups offer value propositions intended to reduce manual labor and to undertake dangerous or unpleasant jobs. This group of startups relies heavily on in situ hardware and telemetry including sensors and autonomous vehicles.
2. **Farm Management and Precision Ag** startups use data-driven approaches to improve decision making about crop or animal management. Both software and hardware products are used to assess crop health, detect diseases, and to fine-tune the application of inputs such as water, fertilizers, and chemicals.
3. **Ag Marketplace** startups use software solutions to facilitate the buying and selling of agricultural products, equipment, and services.
4. **Ag Fintech** startups offer a range of financial services to meet agricultural producers’ needs around accessing working capital and managing risk.
5. **Ag Biotech** startups use genetic engineering to deliver innovations applying beneficial microbes, improving animal or crop breeding, or preventing disease.

Multiple local, statewide, and regional organizations are actively involved in supporting startups within Nebraska’s broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. This includes community-building and mentoring groups, incubator and accelerator programs, and university-based programs. These entities provide startups with knowledge exchange, resource guidance, workspaces, and research, commercialization, and investment support. A variety of for-profit and non-profit strategic partners provide capital, access to customers, distribution networks, and partnerships along upstream and downstream value chains.

*The map was developed by Ankit Chandra, Josh DeMers, Ben Williamson and Nick Brozović.*

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