

2018 Minnesota FFA Agricultural Communications CDE Editing Exam

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Directions: Read the following press release and look for grammar, spelling, formatting, and other errors. Underlined statements may have a maximum of one error. If the underlined segment has an error, write "I" on the space provided and write the change that needs to be made. Then, make corrections using standard Associated Press proofreading marks. If the segment is correct, write "C" on the space provided.

Ag Biotech Company NewLeaf Symbiotics Announced¹ \$24MM C Round Financing

1. _____

New capital will support expansion and product commercialization

ST. LOUIS (BUSINESS WIRE)—NewLeaf Symbiotics announced today the close of a \$24MM series C financing round, accelerating plans to convert proven applications of it's² biotechnology into products for large scale agriculture.³ The company's commitment to tapping the advantages of Methylo trophic bacteria has positioned it as a leader in agricultural biologicals. Monsanto Growth Ventures (MGV) and Otter Capital jointly lead⁴ the round. Lewis & Clark Ventures participated in the financing, as did Rockport Capital, Pangaea Ventures, Open Prairie Ventures, and other investors.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

NewLeaf will use the invested capitol⁵ to commercialize seed treatment and in-furrow products for soybeans, corn, wheat, peanuts, and other crops. The company is 3xing⁶ the size of its R&D and pilot production facility in St. Louis and is expanding its proprietary⁷ Prescriptive Biologics Knowledgebase™ bio-informatics⁸ platform.

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

"The application of these bacterias⁹ in agriculture has tremendous potential to enhance yields and improve plant health," said MGV Venture Principal Ryan Rakestraw. "we are¹⁰ excited to partner with NewLeaf to support the advancement of this differentiated technology.¹¹

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

Otter Capital Founder John Pasquesi¹² commented, "When Otter led the series B financing round we invested in a very strong team, broad IP, and great field data. The company has made rapid progress and has a deep product pipeline. In our judgment NewLeaf has developed a sustainable technology with immense upside,¹³ and the team that has only gotten stronger."

12. _____

13. _____

NewLeaf CEO Tom Laurita added, "Agriculture is undergoing deep technological structural and change.¹⁴ This investment affirms the importance of biologicals and validizes¹⁵ NewLeaf's strategy in this emerging space. Industry consolidation is reshuffling the major players and we are working closely with several of the most forwardlooking¹⁶ companies to integrate our products and technology into their product platforms, we¹⁷ are grateful to our current and new investors for they're support."¹⁸

- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____

NewLeaf was established in 2013 in the Bio Research & Development Growth (BRDG) Park at the Danforth Plant Science center.¹⁹ "Bill Danforth's vision for the Center was to make St. Louis the world leader in plant science research and innovation," said John McDonnell, chairman of the Danforth Center board of directors. "By assembling a world-class²⁰ team and commercializing new agricultural technologies, NewLeaf Symbiotics has become an example of the realization of Dr. Danforth's vision."

- 19. _____
- 20. _____

-30-²¹

- 21. _____

About NewLeaf Symbiotics: NewLeaf Symbiotics is a venture-funded agricultural biologicals company engaged in discovery, development, production, and commercialization of products containing beneficial plant bacteria. Its 30+ member team is based in BRDG Park in St Louis, Missouri.²² Visit NewLeaf Symbiotics at www.newleafsym.com.

- 22. _____

About Bio Research & Development Growth (BRDG) Park: Bio Research & Development Growth (BRDG) Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center helps life science companies bridge research, resources and relationships to achieve commercial success. In addition to providing world-class wet laboratories, office space and a prominent incubator, BRDG Park's location on the Danforth Center's campus facilitates access²³ to the intellectual capital of top scientists, as well as to greenhouses, growth chambers, microscopy and proteomics facilities²⁴ and other vital resources. Located in suburban St. Louis County, Mo., BRDG Park is being developed by Wexford Science+Technology LLC, a development company led by a seasoned team of real estate, finance and engineering experts specializing in major university facilities and science research parks nationwide.²⁵

- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____