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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Title – 2018 agBOT Challenge Champions!

Rockville, IN:

Gerrish Farms and airBridge LLC. hosted the third annual agBOT Challenge on **May 17th, 18th and 19th**.

On May 17th Gerrish Farms hosted NextGen Expo with **Bruce Kettler, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture** opening the day. Hundreds of attendees explored agBOT team workstations, competed in a Watermelon Harvest Simulation Competition using Vex Robotics and engaged in interactive exhibits with lessons in aquatic ecology, botany, robotics, software, drones, farm management and rural broadband solutions.

On May 18th teams competed in the 2018 Weed & Feed Competition. **Out of eleven teams entered into the competition, Nexus Robotics from Nova Scotia took home the Champion title coming in First Place and winning \$30,000. Second Place was a tie between Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis and Purdue University, each of which took home \$10,000 in prize money.**

On May 19th teams competed in the 2018 Watermelon Harvest Competition. **Out of seven teams entered into the competition, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University earned the Champion title taking First Place, winning \$30,000. Second Place, with \$10,000 in prize money, was awarded to Pee Dee Precision from South Carolina. Third Place was a tie between California Polytechnic State University and Muchowski Farms, both teams taking home \$5,000.**

Success of the program is sustained by sponsors and supporters such as Platinum Sponsor: The Climate Corporation, Electrocraft, Barnes and Thornburg, Purdue Foundry, Co-Alliance, Blue River Technology, FFA, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, BATS, Purdue Agriculture, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Gerrish Farms and airBridge, llc. The agBOT Challenge producers look forward to evolving the competition and challenging more talent in 2019. To learn more, please visit the website www.agbot.ag and contact Rachel Gerrish, Senior Executive Producer, rlgerrish@odeaulete.com

About agBOT Challenge

The agBOT Challenge is a series of competitions set to propel innovation in technology and agriculture. With the assistance of sponsors, airBridge and Gerrish farms have created a series of competitions in which individuals, teams, universities, entrepreneurs, farmers etc. are challenged to build autonomous vehicles capable of performing agricultural tasks in the fields. At the annual event, each team of innovators has the opportunity to present their accomplishments to a crowd of supporters, influential leaders, and panel of judges in an effort to win the agBOT Challenge Champion title. For more information visit www.agbot.ag. To learn more, follow the teams and event [@AgBotChallenge](https://twitter.com/AgBotChallenge).

About The Climate Corporation

The Climate Corporation, a subsidiary of Monsanto Company, aims to help all the world's farmers sustainably increase their productivity through the use of digital tools. The integrated Climate FieldView™ digital agriculture platform provides farmers with a comprehensive, connected suite of digital tools. Bringing together seamless field data collection, advanced agronomic modeling and local weather monitoring into simple mobile and web software solutions, the Climate FieldView™ platform gives farmers a deeper understanding of their fields so they can make more informed operating decisions to optimize yields, maximize efficiency and reduce risk. For more information, please visit www.climate.com or follow the company on [Twitter@climatecorp](https://twitter.com/climatecorp).