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Land O'Lakes, Inc. Calls on Entrepreneurs for Startup Next Food & Tech Program

The company is seeking young startups in the food and tech industries to participate in the program starting in August – applicants invited to attend informational event on June 7

MINNEAPOLIS, June 6, 2016 – [Land O'Lakes, Inc.](http://www.landolakesinc.com) today announced its sponsorship of the Techstars Startup Next Food & Tech program launch – a pre-accelerator program for startups in the food and technology industries. The program is calling for entrepreneurs with big ideas and innovations that will help feed the future. [Applications](#) are being accepted through June 30.

Land O'Lakes is pleased to sponsor the Startup Next Food & Tech pre-accelerator program, which will provide hands-on mentorship and education from Land O'Lakes and leaders across the Twin Cities' vibrant startup community. The Startup Next program is an initiative of Techstars, a global organization that supports entrepreneurial companies through its ecosystem of founders, mentors, investors and corporate partners.

"We're an organization rooted in entrepreneurialism and are thrilled with this opportunity to help cultivate young startups with business ideas from farm-to-fork," said Tim Scott, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Land O'Lakes.

Selected participants will meet one evening a week for six consecutive weeks starting in August to hear from a variety of experts on relevant educational topics and for one-on-one mentoring sessions to better prepare themselves for an accelerator or seed round. The program will culminate with a Demo Day event on Sept. 21.

[Applications for Startup Next Food & Tech](#) will be accepted now through June 30. An informational session will take place **tomorrow, Tues., June 7 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.**, in the TractorWorks building in the North Loop. Those interested in applying for the program are invited to attend and learn more. Event details and invite can be found [here](#).

In addition to the in-person event, interested parties also can participate in an online informational session on Thursday, June 16, at 3 pm CDT. The session will be led by Brett Brohl, program director, who will share more about the program and application process. Registration for the [June 16 session can be found here](#).

About Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Land O'Lakes, Inc., one of America's premier agribusiness and food companies, is a member-owned cooperative with industry-leading operations that span the spectrum from agricultural production to consumer foods. With 2015 annual sales of \$13 billion, Land O'Lakes is one of the nation's largest cooperatives, ranking 215 on the Fortune 500. Building on a legacy of more

than 94 years of operation, Land O'Lakes today operates some of the most respected brands in agribusiness and food production including LAND O LAKES® Dairy Foods, Purina Animal Nutrition and Winfield US. The company does business in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. Land O'Lakes, Inc. corporate headquarters are located in Arden Hills, Minn.

About Techstars

Techstars is a global ecosystem that empowers entrepreneurs to bring new technologies to market wherever they choose to live. With dozens of mentorship-driven accelerator programs and thousands of startup programs worldwide, Techstars exists to support the world's most promising entrepreneurs throughout their lifelong journey, from inspiration to IPO. Techstars provides access to tens of thousands of community leaders, founders, mentors, investors, and corporate partners, allowing entrepreneurs to accelerate the pace of innovation and Do More Faster™. Techstars supports every stage of the entrepreneurial journey – from early stage grassroots community development to more formal opportunities that provide education, experience, acceleration, funding, and beyond.

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