



WIRELESS EBT PROJECT

June 2016 Newsletter



From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	22	355	377	\$617.64	\$16,680.16	\$17,297.80
February	12	304	316	\$741.80	\$16,890.55	\$17,632.35
March	25	540	565	\$475.96	\$21,171.14	\$21,647.10
April	92	1490	1582	\$1,616.43	\$67,291.32	\$68,907.75
May	246	6294	6540	\$3,190.99	\$229,762.92	\$232,953.91
Total for Year	397	8,983	9,380	\$6,642.82	\$351,796.09	\$358,438.91

May 2016 Facts:

Total sales for May this year were higher than May 2015 (\$232,953.91 compared to \$199,043.22). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2016 than in 2015 (246 compared to 324). For May 2016, there were a total of 6,540 wireless transactions compared to 5,895 in 2015.

In May 2016, there were 178,090 Food Assistance/EBT families in Iowa. \$42,202,193 in benefits were issued in May to these families.

Visiting Farmers Market

I had the opportunity to visit several farmers markets during the month of June. It is wonderful to see the fresh produce starting to appear at the markets. Although, the weather has been extremely warm it doesn't appear to hinder the crowds from attending the markets. As always, it is great to get out and see everyone.



Vickie & Ron Arkema
Five Points Heritage Farm
Oskaloosa Farmer Market



Ibrahim Ali
Ali Family Garden
Valley Junction Farmer Market



Karen Kummerfeldt
Muscatine Farmer Market



Keith Bloomer
Bloomer Farms
Muscatine Farmers Market



Melissa & Daryl Doty
Doty Angus Cattle Co.
Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market

Wireless EBT Project Signs

Just a reminder that it is extremely important to have your signs up and posted at the farmers market. DHS has provided signage to all of the farmers that participate in the Wireless EBT Project. Iowa's Food Assistance families look for these signs to see which farmers have the ability to accept the EBT card.

Please make sure to have your signs up and posted so they are visible. If you need additional signage, please let me know.

New video for the Wireless EBT Project

The new video for the Wireless EBT Project has been posted to the DHS website. Check it out and you might see some familiar faces.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kx2qrKSnfww&feature=youtu.be>

New posters for the DHS county offices

The new posters have been delivered to the county DHS offices. On the bottom of the posters are listed all of the farmers markets in their area that have farmers that can accept EBT. This is one of the ways that DHS promotes what markets you are attending to Iowa Food Assistance families. If you have a need at your market for one of these posters, please let Tracy know as there are a few left.



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Some of the farmers that participate in the Wireless EBT Project offer CSAs to their clients. There are some changes regarding CSAs that were brought about by the 2014 Farm Bill. The below information only pertains to clients that are using their EBT benefits for CSAs.

- For Food Assistance client's - payment may be accepted no more than 14 days in advance of product delivery.
- Food Assistance (EBT) benefits may not be used to pay any administrative or membership fees associated with operating a CSA.

Update information with the USDA

Just a reminder that it is extremely important to report any changes to the USDA. The USDA is who authorized you to accept EBT. If you have a name change or an address change it needs to be reported so that your authorization is up to date. If you have a change, please call 312-353-6609 to report the change.

Changes to your contact information?

It is very important that DHS has your current e-mail addresses and your correct phone numbers. I send out a lot of important information and if DHS does not have your current information you could be missing out on important information. Please make sure that if you change your e-mail address or you drop or pick up a new phone number that you share that information with me.

Paper for your wireless machine

Just a reminder that DHS supplies the paper rolls for your wireless machines. It is imperative that you use thermal paper or it could ruin your machine. Please do not use any other type of paper in your wireless machine other than the paper that DHS supplies. If you are running low on paper, please give me a call.

Reminders:

1. **Remember that you cannot ring up a sale for another vendor. You could lose your Food Stamp certification and be terminated from the Wireless Project.**
2. **Since you are paying for the commercial transaction fees, be sure to keep track of what you are paying so you can use those expenses as a tax deduction.**
3. **You cannot set a minimum purchase amount. If an EBT household wishes to purchase \$.50 in onions, you do need to process the transaction. Same for any debit or credit transaction.**
4. **Hot foods and hot drinks (cocoa, coffee, and tea) cannot be purchased with SNAP EBT benefits.**
5. **If you experience issues with your FD 410 machine, please call Technical Support at 1-877-274-7915. You will need to supply your Merchant Identification number. If you can't get the problem solved, please call Tracy.**
6. **Call Tracy if you need any supplies such as paper rolls, power cords, or battery.**
7. **Charge your batteries before market. You should always have a charged battery, ready to go for market. If a battery is not holding a charge, contact Tracy for a replacement.**

Help Desk

We are here to help you!

When you have questions about:

- **Participating in the Wireless project or reimbursement questions? Call Tracy Penick at 515-281-4935.**
- **What you can sell to EBT customers, or being authorized to accept EBT? Call USDA/FNS at 877-823-4369.**
- **Food Assistance eligibility? Call Kari Lind at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Tracy Penick at (515) 281-4935.**