



# WIRELESS EBT PROJECT

## June 2014 Newsletter



### From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	58	395	453	\$1,399.49	\$14,822.50	\$16,221.99
February	28	348	376	\$1,007.88	\$12,511.22	\$13,519.10
March	29	570	599	\$1,226.89	\$17,365.99	\$18,592.88
April	63	991	1054	\$2,186.23	\$36,659.12	\$38,845.35
May	363	6218	6581	\$5,199.16	\$221,846.59	\$227,045.75
<b>Total for Year</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>8522</b>	<b>9063</b>	<b>\$11,019.65</b>	<b>\$303,205.42</b>	<b>\$314,225.07</b>

#### **May 2014 Facts:**

Total sales for May this year were higher than May 2013 (\$227,045.75 compared to \$178,006.27). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2014 than in 2013 (363 compared to 439). For May 2014, there were a total of 6,581 wireless transactions compared to 5,147 in 2013.

In May 2014, there were 192,638 Food Assistance/EBT families in Iowa. \$44,106,486 in benefits were issued in May to these families.

#### Here are other interesting facts regarding May sales:

There were 82 farmers who were active in May and 65 of those had EBT sales. The farmers with EBT transactions were:

- ❖ Scavo’s Market (60) Des Moines
- ❖ Yoder’s Natural Farm (22) Bloomfield
- ❖ The Harvest Barn (20) Weldon
- ❖ Grossman Meats (17) Preston
- ❖ Story Book Orchard (16) Story City
- ❖ Rinehart’s Family Farm (15) Boone
- ❖ Rolling Prairie Acres (13) Sigourney
- ❖ Mast Family Farm (11) Leon
- ❖ Newton’s Own (8) Bloomfield
- ❖ Oak Hill Acres (8) Atalissa
- ❖ Triple Creek Dairy (8) Long Grove
- ❖ Westrum Produce (8) Stratford

Congratulations go out to Scavo’s Market for having the highest amount of EBT transactions and the highest amount in EBT sales. Congratulations!

## Welcome to the Wireless EBT Project family

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new farmers that have joined the Wireless EBT Project in the last couple of months. They are:

- Lindsay Kaiser (Kaiser Farm Fresh) – Waverly – Produce, poultry, berries
- Jessica Crowley (Barnyard Produce) – Tipton – Produce, eggs, baked goods
- Louise Zaffiro (Prairie Roots Farm) – Pella – Produce, herbs, honey
- Erik Sessions (Patchwork Green Farm) – Decorah – Produce
- Matt Roe (Terraceberry Farm) – Corydon – Berries, honey
- Michele De Boer (Grandma's Garden) – Pella – Produce, eggs, strawberries
- Donald Harness (Gothic Gardens) – Eldon – Produce, fruit, noodles
- Hope & Luke Cline (Off the Land) – Elgin – Produce, beef, pork
- Frank Kalnes (Frank's Garden) – Dubuque – Produce
- Lance & Jana Shryock (Generations Good Home Cooking) – Colfax – Baked Goods, produce

## Visiting Farmers Markets

Tracy had the opportunity to hit the road on May 30 & 31<sup>st</sup> to visit some farmers markets in eastern Iowa. On Friday evening, she stopped at the Noelridge market in Cedar Rapids. On Saturday morning, she stopped at the Main Street market in Dubuque, and then headed to Davenport to visit the Northpark Mall market and the Freight House market. Tracy finished up the trip with a stop at the Chauncey Swan market in Iowa City. All of these markets had a lot of people shopping even though it was still a little early for produce.



Brett & Lisa Klein  
Klein Market  
Dubuque – Main Street



Julia & James Bartenhagen  
Bartenhagen Produce  
Davenport – Northpark Mall



Ives Grossman & grandson Ethan  
Grossman Meats  
Davenport – Freight House

Just a reminder – please be sure to have your signs posted and visible so that Food Assistance families can find you and be able to purchase fresh food with their EBT benefits.

## Care of your wireless machine

Below are a couple of reminders on how to care for your wireless machine.

- Keep your wireless machine out of the elements. It is important not to get the machine wet and to protect it from the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter. The machine is similar to a computer so it has to be taken care of or the machine will cease to function.
- Always charge your wireless machine with a surge protector. If the machine is charging during a power surge it can blow the pin encryption in the machine.
- The paper that is used in the machine is thermal paper. The paper rolls will expire if they are exposed to extreme heat or cold. Please store your extra paper rolls away from the elements.

## Changes to your contact information?

It is very important that DHS has your current e-mail addresses and your correct phone numbers. Tracy sends 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 Tracy.

## 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 Tracy 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 your Nurit machine quits working, you need to call TMS Tech Support at 1-888-848-6825. This is the phone number on the side of your machine. If you can't get the problem solved, please give Tracy a call.**
6. **If your VeriFone machine quits working, you will need to call Jason Butts at 402-574-7086 or Chris Shanahan at 402-574-7016. If you can't get the problem solved, please give Tracy a call.**
7. **Call Tracy if you need any supplies such as paper rolls, power cords, or battery.**
8. **The second battery that we provide to you was purchased by DHS. If you ever need to return your wireless machine, be sure to keep one battery, carrying case and signs.**
9. **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.**
10. **Please make sure to keep the original box that your machine came in as it contains the Sim card, which is needed to identify your machine if you have to call TMS.**

## 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 515-421-3248.**
- **Food Assistance eligibility? Call Kari Lind at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Tracy Penick at (515) 281-4935.**