



WIRELESS EBT PROJECT February 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
Total for Year	22	355	377	\$617.64	\$16,680.16	\$17,297.80

January 2016 Facts:

Total sales for January this year were higher than January 2015 (\$17,297.80 compared to \$16,258.65). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2016 than in 2015 (22 compared to 31). For January 2016, there were a total of 377 wireless transactions compared to 330 in 2015.

In January 2016, there were 179,813 Food Assistance/EBT families in Iowa. \$42,403,604 in benefits were issued in January to these families.

Here are other interesting facts regarding January sales:

There were 16 farmers who were active in January and 6 of those had EBT sales. The farmers with EBT transactions were:

- ❖ Iowa Food Coop – Des Moines
- ❖ Oak Hill Acres – Atalissa
- ❖ Grossman Meats – Preston
- ❖ Sawyer Beef - Princeton
- ❖ Allen’s Grove Greenhouse - Donahue
- ❖ Hollow Maple Farm - Bennett

Iowa’s EBT Farmers Market Brochure

Please be sure to send your 2016 farmers market information to Tracy so that you will be included in the brochure. Please provide your information by March 28th so that DHS can get the brochure printed before the market season begins. Thanks so much!

Monthly fees

Just a reminder that if your wireless machine was left active during the winter months, the monthly fees will continue to be debited from your bank account around the 2nd of every month. It is important that you keep enough money in your account so that you are not charged non-sufficient fees by Ignite Payments and possibly your bank.

Time to Recruit New Farmers!

It is that time of year where we need to begin recruiting new farmers for the Wireless EBT Project. Do you know of any farmers in your farmers market that would benefit by being a part of the Wireless EBT Project? If so, please let me know so I can reach out to them.

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.