



March 22, 2016

One-stop Shop for Farmers to Sign Up to Accept Food Assistance April 1 event certifies farmers for Wireless EBT Project

(Des Moines, Iowa) - Just in time for farmers market season, Iowa farmers can attend an April 1 event to complete the process that allows them to accept wireless payment from Iowans who receive Food Assistance benefits.

The Wireless Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Project lets farmers use a wireless machine to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits from recipients' EBT cards. Farmers must sign up and get certified to participate in the program, and the upcoming event in Des Moines allows them to complete this process in one day.

"This is a one-stop shop to allow Iowa's dedicated farmers to increase their sales while helping low-income Iowans gain access to healthy foods" says Tracy Penick, program manager for the Wireless EBT Project. "At this event, farmers will be able to get approved to accept EBT benefits so they're ready when their stand opens up for the farmers market season."

The Iowa Department of Human Services, (DHS), which administers the Food Assistance program, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), are hosting the event from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 1 at the United Way of Central Iowa in Des Moines. Farmers will be able to fill out all necessary paperwork to participate in the Wireless EBT Project, and get immediately certified by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

Also assisting with the event are United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), MerchantSource, Iowa Farmers Market Association, United Way of Central Iowa and Eat Greater Des Moines.

Penick reminds farmers to bring their Social Security card, driver's license and a voided check as these documents are required to complete the process. Farmers can fill out the [W9](#) and [USDA retailer applications](#) prior to the event, or when they arrive.

To reserve your spot at this event, farmers should RSVP with Tracy Penick at 515-281-4935 or tpenick@dhs.state.ia.us If a farmer wants to participate in the Wireless EBT Project but can't attend the event, they can contact Penick for more details.

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
United Way of Central Iowa
1111 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

For more information contact Amy McCoy amccoy@dhs.state.ia.us or 515-281-4848.