



WIRELESS EBT PROJECT

June 2020 Newsletter



From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	15	400	415	\$1,620.35	\$19,522.33	\$21,142.68
February	9	488	497	\$631.91	\$16,894.08	\$17,525.99
March	19	338	357	\$2,085.27	\$15,822.26	\$17,907.53
April	13	2,767	2,780	\$1,243.32	\$184,944.79	\$186,188.11
May	66	10,304	10,370	\$2,839.64	\$560,305.52	\$563,145.16
Total for Year	122	14,297	14,419	\$8,420.49	\$797,488.98	\$805,909.47

May 2020 Facts:

All I can say is WOW! The sales for May were the highest sales month ever in the history of The Wireless EBT Project. What is truly amazing is all of you accomplished this on brand new technology and in the middle of a pandemic. It is truly a privilege to work with all of you!

Total sales for May this year were higher than May 2019 (\$563,145.16 compared to \$322,386.76). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2020 than in 2019 (66 compared to 163). For May, 2020 there were a total of 10,370 wireless transactions compared to 8,266 in 2019.

In May 2020, there were 165,366 Food Assistance/EBT families in Iowa. \$58,128,212 in benefits were issued in May to these families.

New Iowa EBT Card

Beginning on July 1st new Food Assistance households who do not have a current EBT card and Food Assistance households requesting a replacement EBT card will be receiving the new Iowa EBT card.

The old EBT cards are still valid and there is no current plan to mass replace these EBT cards. So just, want you to be aware that you could possibly be seeing both of these EBT cards at your stand at the farmers market in the near future.

See below for a picture of the new Iowa EBT card.



Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Some of the farmers that participate in the Wireless EBT Project offer CSAs to their clients. The below information only pertains to clients that are using their EBT benefits for CSAs.

- For Food Assistance recipients – 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.

Seed and Vegetable Plants can be purchased with EBT

Many greenhouses are now open so I wanted to remind everyone about allowable food items for SNAP/Food Assistance/EBT. Seeds that grow eligible food items can be purchased with an EBT card. This includes tomato, cucumber seeds, etc. EBT cards can also be used to purchase plants that produce food such as pepper and tomato plants.

For more information on what can be purchased with EBT, go to USDA website listed below.
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>

USDA reauthorization

Just a reminder that you have to reauthorize every 5 years with the USDA to accept EBT. If you receive a reauthorization letter from the USDA, please complete and return it promptly. If you don't complete the paperwork timely, you will lose your EBT authorization and will have to reapply and complete the application to come back into the program.

We have had several farmers lose their EBT authorization because they did not return the required paperwork back to the USDA.

Just a reminder that you have to be authorized by the USDA to accept EBT to participate in The Wireless EBT Project.

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 email address 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 email 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 contact Jan at 515-971-1076.

Reminders:

1. **Remember that you cannot ring up a sale for another vendor. You could lose your Food Assistance (EBT) certification and be terminated from the Wireless EBT 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 transactions.**
4. **Hot foods and hot drinks (cocoa, coffee, and tea) cannot be purchased with SNAP EBT benefits.**
5. **If you experience technical issues with your PAX A920 machine, please call GoEBT at 1-877-418-7957. If you can't get the problem solved, please call Tracy.**

Help Desk

We are here to help you!

When you have questions about:

- **Participating in the Wireless EBT Project? 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 Jan Walters at 515-971-1076.**