



## WIRELESS EBT PROJECT February 2023 Newsletter

### From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	19	553	572	\$1,569.86	\$29,956.97	\$31,526.83
<b>Total for Year</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>\$1,569.86</b>	<b>\$29,956.97</b>	<b>\$31,526.83</b>

#### January 2023 Facts:

Total sales for January this year were lower than January 2022 (\$31,526.86 compared to \$31,766.11). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2023 than in 2022 (19 compared to 33). For January 2023, there were a total of 572 wireless transactions compared to 447 in 2022.

In January 2023, there were 134,888 SNAP/EBT families in Iowa. \$42,988,461 in benefits were issued in January to these families.

### Iowa’s EBT Farmers Market Brochure

**Important** – Just a reminder that I need your 2023 Farmers Market information by **Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** if you want to be included in this year’s brochure. An e-mail/letter was sent out on February 7th explaining what information is needed.

### Time to recruit new farmers!

It is that time of the 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.

## Seed & Vegetable Plants can be purchased with EBT

Many greenhouses will soon be open, so I wanted to remind everyone about allowable food items for SNAP/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 must 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.

Just a reminder that you must 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 HHS has your current email address and your correct phone numbers. I send out a lot of important information and if HHS 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 drop or pick up a new phone number that you share that information with me.

## Paper for your wireless machine

Just a reminder that HHS 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 HHS 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 **SNAP (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 515-491-6325.**
- **What you can sell to EBT customers, or being authorized to accept EBT? Call USDA/FNS at 877-823-4369.**
- **SNAP eligibility? Call Melana Jensson at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Jan Walters at 515-971-1076.**