



WIRELESS EBT PROJECT January 2023 Newsletter

From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	33	414	447	\$3,171.61	\$28,594.50	\$31,766.11
February	30	568	598	\$2,761.92	\$35,310.36	\$38,072.28
March	47	582	629	\$4,271.96	\$28,397.82	\$32,669.78
April	35	3,267	3,302	\$2,963.71	\$205,082.84	\$208,046.55
May	121	15,745	15,866	\$3,901.99	\$910,587.38	\$914,489.37
June	169	6,666	6,835	\$6,462.33	\$217,983.87	\$224,446.20
July	457	10,309	10,766	\$9,955.40	\$230,035.43	\$239,990.83
August	601	9,570	10,171	\$14,767.14	\$223,561.34	\$238,328.48
September	452	8,057	8,509	\$10,990.70	\$225,450.43	\$236,441.13
October	358	6,287	6,645	\$7,778.67	\$180,736.62	\$188,515.29
November	36	985	1,021	\$1,625.67	\$36,518.11	\$38,143.78
December	32	1,106	1,138	\$1,742.85	\$47,348.97	\$49,091.82
Total for Year	2,371	63,556	65,927	\$70,393.95	\$2,369,607.67	\$2,440,001.62

Wow! The total sales for 2022 hit \$2,440,001.62 the highest sales ever in the history of the project. The Wireless EBT Project rolled out back in 2005 and the total sales for the 1st year were \$19,775.00. The project continues to grow and serve more families in Iowa because of all of you and your dedication to the project. Awesome job to all!

December 2022 Facts:

Total sales for December this year were higher than December 2021 (\$49,091.82 compared to \$44,594.80). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2022 than in 2021 (32 compared to 49). For December 2022, there were a total of 1,138 wireless transactions compared to 1,124 in 2021.

In December 2022, there were 135,258 SNAP/EBT families in Iowa. \$44,998,520 in benefits were issued in December to these families.

Upcoming Conference & Workshop

The 25th Annual Iowa Farmers Market Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Gateway Hotel & Conference Center located at 2100 Green Hills Drive in Ames. For more information visit the below link:

<http://www.iafarmersmarkets.org/workshop.html>

The 2023 Iowa Specialty Producers Conference will be held on February 22 & 23rd at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. For more information visit the below link:

[Iowa Specialty Producers Conference](#)

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.

Closing machines for the winter

If we have closed your wireless machine for the winter months, please make sure to keep your battery intact in your machine. Make sure to store your machine/equipment some place warm and safe during the winter months.

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 Jenson at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Jan Walters at 515-971-1076.**