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## **Expanded Farmers' Market Wireless EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) Program Farm Stand/Veggie Van/Green Cart Application/Agreement**

### **Background**

The Farmers Market Wireless EBT Program has been outfitting farmers markets across New York State with the capability to accept SNAP benefit since 2002. The program has achieved a level of administrative success, developing a program that creates access to SNAP recipients in 83 communities and generated sales of over \$400,000 at farmers markets in 2008. The demand for EBT at farmers markets continues to expand, with expectations of increasing to an additional 30 communities in 2009.

But, despite the program's success and its plans to equip an additional proportion of the state's nearly 400 farmers markets with wireless EBT terminals in 2009, there are other "non-traditional" retail vendors of locally grown fresh produce that can provide needed additional access and benefits for SNAP participants and farmers if provided with wireless EBT equipment and services similar to those being deployed at the farmers markets.

These other retail food outlets include: (1) open-air farm stands in rural areas lacking convenient access to multi-vendor farmers markets located in cities and villages; (2) mobile "veggie vans" serving low-income neighborhoods, including public and Senior housing complexes; and (3) mobile "Green Carts" selling fresh produce on city sidewalks in low-income neighborhoods.

While farmers markets have become a key means of promoting increased awareness and use of fresh produce by SNAP participants using EBT debit cards (as they also have for low-income WIC and Senior Nutrition Program participants using FMNP checks), the majority of farmers markets operate only 1-2 days per week during the local growing season (June-November).

By contrast, many farm stands in rural areas operate daily during the growing season; mobile "veggie vans" in urban areas operate on multiple days during the growing season or year round; and the newly authorized, mobile "Green Carts" in New York City operate on city sidewalks in specific low-income areas daily during fair weather. Given their geographic location and/or mobility in relation to SNAP participants lacking access to fresh food, and their more frequent and/or year round schedule of operations, all three types of retail food vendors could provide additional access to fresh, nutritious, locally grown produce for those participants who cannot take advantage of the state's otherwise extensive farmers market network.

The proposed pilot project would test the use of wireless EBT terminals and services with three different types of "non-traditional" USDA authorized produce retailers who currently cannot accept EBT cards due to the open-air or mobile nature of their rural or urban sales operations.

### **Participation:**

To be eligible to participate in the expansion of the EBT Project, you must be either:

- A farm stand in a rural county with high SNAP enrollment, lack of convenient access to farmers markets equipped with EBT under the Farmers Market Wireless EBT Program, and lack of infrastructure to facilitate landlines;
- A "Veggie Van" (mobile produce vending vehicles) operated by non-profit organizations; or

○ A “Green Cart” (mobile sidewalk street carts) vendor in the five NYC boroughs.  
 The project is limited in number of participants, therefore applications will be screened for eligibility and served on a first come, first served basis.

**Rights and Responsibilities**

As a project participant, I understand and agree that:

- I must accept SNAP benefits as a prerequisite to participating in the program. However, at my own expense, although I may add debit and credit capabilities to the terminal.
- I will be given a wireless POS terminal for my use for as long as I participate in the program. The terminal may not be transferred, assigned or subleased. Should I drop out or be removed from the program, I will be obligated to return the terminal to the Farmers Market Federation of NY.
- I understand that my account will be debited monthly for wireless service fees and EBT transaction fees, but I will be reimbursed for these fees the duration of the project and my participation in it. The Farmers Market Federation of NY will reimburse the fees after year end.
- This is a wireless service and as such is subject to the uncertainties of wireless networks, including, but not limited to temporary interruption of service and lost signals. Every effort will be made to keep any interruptions to a minimum.
- I will safeguard the wireless POS terminal to protect it from any damage, including breakage or moisture; as well as loss or theft. Any damage or loss of terminal beyond warranty will be my expense to rectify.
- “We Gladly Accept SNAP” signage will be provided for my use. I agree to display signage at all times.
- I agree to participate in program training provided by the Farmers Market Federation of NY.
- I agree to allow the Farmers Market Federation of NY access to my sales data for EBT and debit/credit for tracking and evaluation purposes. Data will be kept confidential and will only be reported in the aggregate.
- I agree to abide by the terms of the project, the wireless service provider and the Visa/Mastercard agreement.
- I agree to hold the Farmers Market Federation of New York, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance harmless for any problems/claims arising from the project.
- I will accept SNAP benefits only on food stamp eligible foods and plants under USDA FNS rules.
- I will never exchange SNAP benefits for cash.
- I will treat each customer with dignity and respect, nor discriminate against SNAP customers in any way.
- I will notify the Farmers Market Federation of NY of any problems with the project. (315-637-4690)
- I will complete season end surveys to assist in evaluating the project.

**I/we would like to enroll in the Expanded NYS Farmers Market Wireless EBT Program for the following services:**

**EBT Only**

**EBT and Debit**

**EBT, Debit and Credit**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
USDA FNS Food Stamp #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business/Farm/Organization Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

**I/we plan to use the wireless terminal at the following locations:**

**(1) Location** \_\_\_\_\_

Days and Hours of Operation \_\_\_\_\_

Start month and date \_\_\_\_\_ End month/date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**(2) Location** \_\_\_\_\_

Days and Hours of Operation \_\_\_\_\_

Start month and date \_\_\_\_\_ End month/date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**(3) Location** \_\_\_\_\_

Days and Hours of Operation \_\_\_\_\_

Start month and date \_\_\_\_\_ End month/date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**(4) Location** \_\_\_\_\_

Days and Hours of Operation \_\_\_\_\_

Start month and date \_\_\_\_\_ End month/date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Products per location (Check all that apply, per location:**

Location/day of week	_____	_____	_____	_____
NYS grown fruits	_____	_____	_____	_____
NYS grown Vegetables	_____	_____	_____	_____
Out of state fruits	_____	_____	_____	_____
Out of state Vegetables	_____	_____	_____	_____
Plant/herb/flowers	_____	_____	_____	_____
Meat/poultry	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dairy products	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maple or honey products	_____	_____	_____	_____
Baked goods	_____	_____	_____	_____
*Ready-to-eat foods	_____	_____	_____	_____
*NYS Wines	_____	_____	_____	_____
*Non-foods	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other (list: _____)	_____	_____	_____	_____

(\*Ineligible to accept EBT tokens)

**Please list any non-food items sold at the market** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_