

## Lt. Gov. Simon to announce recipients of farmers' market grant

Written by Justin Stofferahn  
Friday, 20 July 2012 14:49

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CARBONDALE – Lt. Governor Sheila Simon will host a media call-in Tuesday afternoon with Audrey Rowe, Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, to announce that up to 50 farmers' markets across Illinois will receive free wireless machines that accept Link, debit and credit cards as part of the Illinois Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Wireless Project. With these markets coming aboard, one in three farmers' markets statewide will accept food stamp benefits for the first time.

Simon and Rowe will be joined on the call by Connie Spreen, the executive director of the Chicago non-profit Experimental Station, and vegetable farmers Cheryl and Josh Dotson of Dotson Farms in Beecher, a mother-son team that sells produce at several farmers' markets in Chicago. Simon and Rowe will explain the wireless grant program and discuss USDA efforts to boost access to local foods and the impact that can have on the health of citizens and the economy.

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 24

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**TIME:** 1 – 2 p.m.

**DIAL-IN:** [888-455-0739](tel:888-455-0739)

**PASSCODE:** FNS (Given Verbally)

**Trouble number:** [202-720-8560](tel:202-720-8560)

All callers using the above pass code will be placed in listen only mode. To join the Q&A portion of the meeting, these callers are instructed to press \*1 on their touch tone phone.

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