

Nebraska Lottery

Drawing Results, Winners, and Scratch Game Information **402-471-6114**
 Players Hotline **402-471-6139** and **800-224-LUCK (NE & WY only)**
 Main Number **402-471-6100** and **800-587-5200**
 Website nelottery.com

Scratch Tickets and OSR

877-651-6296

Lottery Retailer Hotline

800-560-2919

Free problem gambling help for Nebraskans at
problemgambling.nebraska.gov

ticket talk

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ticket talk

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NEBRASKA LOTTERY RETAILERS

What's Inside:

Accounting Tips

Yuletide Ride Winner

Truck\$ & Buck\$

Winter Bonuses

Here are the retailers who received High Prize Seller Bonuses for selling major winning tickets from mid-December through mid-January.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>B&S Trading Post, Ponca, Arctic Rush, \$40,000 U-Stop #09, Lincoln, Lucky Star 10X, \$50,000 Fast Mart #4, Columbus, Mega Loteria, \$1,000 Cedar's Rapid Stop, Cedar Rapids, Truck\$ & Buck\$, Truck Pump & Pantry #27, Kearney, White Ice, \$1,000 Casey's #2038, Kearney, White Ice, \$1,000 Hy-Vee #1466, Omaha, 2by2, \$22,029 Kwik Stop #01, North Platte, Bonus Crossword, \$1,000 Norm's on 48th, Lincoln, Hot Streak, \$100,000 Family Fare 811, Omaha, Lucky Star 2X, \$2,000 Bakers #319, Omaha, MyDaY, \$5,050 Lou's Thrifty Way Market, Norfolk, Pick 5, \$110,548 Hy-Vee Food Store #06 (1535), Omaha, 10X Bingo Multiplier, \$35,000 Casey's #1177, Columbus, Arctic Rush, \$40,000 Foote Convenience Plaza, Kearney, Fun 5s, \$30,000 Mega Saver, Omaha, Red Hot 7s, \$7,777 Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh #5, Lincoln, White Ice, \$1,000 Kwik Stop #06, Imperial, Lucky Symbols Loteria, \$1,000 Weston 92 BP, Weston, Premier Cash, \$1,000 Dual Stop 23rd St, Columbus, Premier Cash, \$1,000 Family Fare 800, Omaha, Super Loteria, \$50,000 Bakers #300, Bellevue, Lucky Star 20X, \$100,000 Casey's #2163, North Platte, Wild Cherry Crossword, \$1,000 Pump & Pantry #41, Kearney, Wild Cherry Crossword, \$1,000 Super Saver #17, Lincoln, Lucky For Life, \$5,070 Dollar Fresh Market, Omaha, Supreme Gold, \$5,000 Shoemaker's Truck Station, Lincoln, White Ice, \$1,000 Casey's #1744, Beatrice, Wild Cherry Crossword, \$1,000 Bakers #318, Bellevue, Lotto America, \$5,055 The Short Stop, Madison, Colossal Cash, \$1,000 QuikTrip #578, Omaha, Crossword Mania, \$1,000 Fast Mart, Norfolk, Supreme Gold, \$50,000 Casey's #2978, Lincoln, White Ice, \$1,000 Pump & Pantry #40, Kearney, Fun 5s, \$1,000 Taylor Quik Pik #02, Fremont, Hot Streak, \$5,000 Kwik Stop #01, North Platte, White Ice, \$1,000 Love's Travel Stop #784, Schuyler, Supreme Gold, \$5,000</p> | <p>Pilot Flying J #686, Gretna, Wild Cherry Crossword, \$1,000 Didier's Grocery, Inc., Schuyler, Truck\$ & Buck\$, Truck Casey's #1737, Fremont, 2by2, \$22,007 Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh #1, Lincoln, Cleopatra, \$100,000 Big Bats Sinclair Super Shop, Scottsbluff, Supreme Gold, \$5,000 Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh, Columbus, 2by2, \$22,019 Casey's #2972, Lincoln, Lucky Symbols Loteria, \$35,000 Casey's #2881, Columbus, Crossword Mania, \$200,000 Casey's #3529, Plattsmouth, MyDaY, \$5,004 Pump & Pantry #36, Rushville, Supreme Gold, \$5,000 Russ's Market #16, Lincoln, Supreme Gold, \$5,000 75 Mart, Plattsmouth, Pick 5, \$200,007 Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh #1, Omaha, 2by2, \$22,004 Bakers #320, Omaha, 10X Bingo Multiplier, \$1,000 Casey's #1759, North Platte, Hot Streak, \$5,000 Murphy Usa #7485, Columbus, Hot Streak, \$1,000 Bootlegger Liquor, St. Paul, White Ice, \$1,000 Pump & Pantry #16, York, MyDaY, \$5,020 Speedee Mart 2810, Lincoln, Arctic Rush, \$1,000 Super C #4, Lincoln, Mega Loteria, \$1,000 U-Stop #15, Lincoln, Supreme Gold, \$5,000 U-Stop #04, Lincoln, Titanium 20s, \$1,000 Nick's Gas & Liquor, Alliance, Titanium 20s, \$1,000 Kwik Shop #663, Lincoln, Triple Clover Crossword, \$1,000 North Bend Mini Mart, North Bend, White Ice, \$1,000 Cubby's Laurel, Laurel, Wild Cherry Crossword, \$1,000 Casey's #1817, Nebraska City, 2by2, \$22,001 Casey's #2712, Superior, Mega Millions, \$10,026 Casey's #2978, Lincoln, Spinning Sevens, \$30,000 Hy-Vee Food Store #10 (1474), Omaha, White Ice, \$1,000 Casey's #3344, Blair, Lotto America, \$1,004 Murphy Express #8774, Omaha, Pick 5, \$110,019 Speedee Mart 2725, Omaha, Lotto America, \$20,024 Casey's #6138, Omaha, Lucky Symbols Loteria, \$1,000 Super C #6, Lincoln, Supreme Gold, \$5,000 Anderson Convenience Market 168, Omaha, Wild Cherry Crossword, \$1,000 75 Mart, Plattsmouth, Mega Loteria, \$100,000</p> |
|---|---|

Please Note: High Prize Seller Bonuses for Scratch games are credited to retailer accounts when the prize is claimed. High Prize Seller Bonuses for Lotto games are credited to retailer accounts after the drawing for which the ticket was sold.



Promotion runs from
 Feb. 12-April 1, 2025.





Brian Rockey
Lottery Director

As we step into a new phase of our business, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued partnership and dedication. Your support has been instrumental in our shared success, and I remain committed to ensuring that we grow and thrive together.

Over the past year, we have navigated market changes, customer demand shifts, and operational enhancements, all with the goal of delivering greater value to you. While we have seen steady performance in some areas, we also see changes in player attitudes in others. We recognize the need to adapt and innovate to maintain our momentum in an evolving retail landscape.

One important change I want to bring to your attention is the upcoming adjustment to Mega Millions. The move to a \$5 buy is meant to increase the appeal of Mega Millions by allowing the jackpot to grow more rapidly. These updates are designed to enhance the player experience and drive additional engagement.

Thank you for your continued trust and collaboration.

Lotto Specials

Players across Nebraska took advantage of the Holiday Lotto Special in December to save some cash on their favorite Lotto games. A total of 25,345 specials were produced at 991 retailers between December 9 and 28.

The next Lotto special will be for St. Patrick's Day. Between March 14 and March 17, players can get a Nebraska Pick 3, Lucky for Life, 2by2, and MyDaY ticket for \$4. A "Special" button will appear on the Nebraska Lottery terminal to produce the discounted tickets.

Accounting Tips & Tricks

A new year signals a time for new beginnings and starting new routines. Here are some accounting tips and tricks from the Nebraska Lottery to start 2025 off right.

- Remember to confirm your ticket shipments when they arrive and activate packs before selling tickets. See the delivery confirmation slip and the Quick Reference Card for more information. The Lottery suggests keeping one packing slip at store level and sending one to corporate (if applicable).
- To avoid confusion, do not return validated Scratch or Lotto tickets to players unless the ticket has not been paid. If you encounter a problem validating a ticket and have not paid, give both the receipt and the ticket back to the customer and instruct them to claim their prize at a Nebraska Lottery Claim Center. Please write your first name on the receipt so Lottery Accounting can contact the proper person if they have any questions.
- When cashing in a multi-draw Lotto ticket with remaining drawings, an exchange ticket for the remaining draws will be produced. Make sure to give the player the exchange ticket and do not return their original ticket. Look for the words "EXCHANGE TICKET" to indicate which ticket should be given to the player.
- If you have scanned a winning Scratch ticket and don't have enough cash on hand to pay, **please do not press the "Pay" key**. If the "Pay" key was accidentally pressed, please call Lottery Accounting at 800-587-5200. Mark the back of the ticket as "not paid," along with your name and date. Give both the receipt and the ticket back to the customer and instruct them to claim their prize at a Nebraska Lottery Claim Center.
- Scanning winning tickets of \$25 or below results in automatic validation without pressing the "Pay" key. Higher winning amounts will not validate unless the "Pay" key is pressed. If you paid the winning amount and the ticket is not validated, your store will not get the credit.
- When scanning tickets, wait a second or two for the validation message to come up. If you do not get a response after two seconds, then it is okay to scan again. Immediate re-scanning could result in the system responding with "Previously Cashed By This Retailer". When this happens, your store has received the credit for the validation and you should pay the player. You can review the last transactions to see how much the ticket was validated for.
- Make sure to always deface winning tickets and keep them with your daily records until all reconciliations are done before discarding them.
- Do not accept photocopies or reproductions of tickets for validation. This does not apply to eCoupons that MVP Club members print at home.
- Lotto tickets can no longer be called in to be tagged for credit. Try to sell any mistake tickets to another player before draw break. If you experience a print failure or paper jam, follow the on-screen instructions, then hold the affected ticket for your LSR.
- If a communication error occurs on your Lotto terminal during a transaction, or the terminal message indicates "Previously Cashed By This Retailer", you can touch the **Last Transactions** button, then touch **Last Transaction** to check if the transaction was successfully completed and the value of the last validation. The last 50 transactions can also be accessed there. If further assistance is needed, please call the Hotline at 800-560-2919.
- Activated, settled & returned Scratch reports, which are detail of the Weekly Settlement Report Scratch activity, are available by pressing the **Reports** button. Under Inventory Reports click on Inventory Activity-Current Week or Inventory Activity-Previous Weeks.
- Once a pack is activated, it cannot be deactivated. Payment for that pack will post whichever comes first of the following two scenarios: 45 days after activation or when 70% of the pack has been sold (based on validations).
- Prizes from closed Scratch games or expired Lotto tickets **cannot** be claimed. If a customer tries to redeem a ticket from a closed or expired ticket, remind them that prizes can be redeemed up to 180 days after the closing date (for Scratch tickets) or 180 days after the drawing date (for Lotto tickets). Prizes from these tickets **cannot** be claimed by mailing them to the Nebraska Lottery or by directing players to visit a Lottery Claim Center.
- Tickets can be validated manually by touching Validation, then touching Scratch Validation or Lotto Validation. For Scratch tickets, enter the 14-digit game, pack, and ticket number from the back of the ticket AND the 14-digit VERN number under the latex on the front of the ticket. For a Lotto ticket, enter the 19-digit ticket number.
- If you are unable to validate a Scratch ticket by scanning the barcode or by manual entry, instruct the player to mail the ticket to the Nebraska Lottery at the prize claim P.O. Box on the back of the ticket to claim their prize.
- When closing a store or discontinuing lottery sales, make sure you ask the LSR picking up the tickets for a list of all activated, settled and returned packs. Your store will be charged for all the settled packs first before receiving credits for the returned packs.

Mega Millions Enhancements Coming Soon; Multi-Draws Reduced

Enhancements are coming to Mega Millions in April of 2025! To prepare, the maximum number of multi-draws that can be purchased will decrease by one after every drawing. Terminal messages will regularly be sent as a reminder of the current multi-draw limit, and you can refer to the Mega Millions multi-draw sales sheet for the complete stepdown chart. On April 5, 2025, it will again be possible to purchase multi-draw tickets for up to 12 weeks of consecutive drawings (24 draws).

The changes to Mega Millions taking effect in April 2025 will result in:

- Better odds:** the number of white balls will stay at 70 and the number of gold Mega Balls will decrease from 25 to 24. The result will be improved odds of winning the jackpot prize (1 in 290 million) and many other prize levels.
- Bigger wins and no breakeven prizes:** the smallest prize you can win will be \$10, compared to \$2 for the current game.
- Built in multiplier:** every play will be randomly assigned a multiplier at the time of purchase, which will increase non-jackpot prizes 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X or 10X.
- Higher starting jackpot (\$50 million) and faster growing jackpots**

Tickets will cost \$5 per play. To give players the chance to try the new and improved game, coupons for a free Mega Millions play will randomly print with Mega Millions purchases between March 29 and April 4. When a coupon is awarded, the terminal will play a sound, and the coupon will print after the purchased ticket. Make sure to hand the coupon to the player along with their Mega Millions ticket. Awarded coupons can be redeemed between April 5 and April 18.

Cash Blast

It's back!

The Nebraska Lottery's 2025 2by2 Cash Blast promotion is here and we're feeling like giving away some money!

Between February 12 through April 1, Nebraska Lottery players who buy 2by2 tickets will receive a voucher to enter for weekly chances to win either \$500 or \$5,000. Each \$1 ticket purchase will automatically print an entry voucher players can enter through the Nebraska Lottery's MVP Club.

Two winners will be drawn each week, one \$500 winner and one \$5,000 winner. If that voucher number was produced from a 7-day draw ticket, the prize will be doubled to \$1,000 or \$10,000.

Each voucher is valid for only one weekly drawing, but no matter when the voucher was produced it can be entered in any of the drawings.

Vouchers will begin printing on February 12 and will continue to print through April 1. The first weekly drawing will occur on February 19, followed by weekly drawings, culminating in the final April 3 drawing. Players will have until 11:59 p.m. April 2 to enter their voucher numbers through the MVP Club at nelottery.com.



\$3 Scratch Game Second-Chance Promotion

Players that purchase \$3 Scratch games can keep the fun going by entering the \$3 Scratch Game Second-Chance Promotion. Five winners will be drawn each month to win a pack of \$3 Scratch tickets.

If you know a player that regularly buys \$3 Scratch tickets, let them know they can enter their non-winning tickets at nelottery.com each month for a second chance to win.



Yuletide Ride Winner

We're officially past the yuletide season, but we still had one big gift to give.

The Nebraska Lottery's Yuletide Ride Second-Chance Promotion gave players a chance to enter non-winning Lucky Star Scratch tickets to be entered to win one of five \$1,000 cash prizes or the grand prize of a brand new 2024 Ford Bronco® 4x4.

Patty Atherton of Lincoln was the lucky winner who drove away in the metallic green Ford Bronco.

The Nebraska Lottery presented her with the keys on January 31 in front of Super Saver at 5460 S 56th St. in Lincoln where she purchased the ticket that took home the top prize.

Players received one entry for \$1 Lucky Star 2X tickets, five entries for \$5 Lucky Star 10X tickets and 10 entries for each \$10 Lucky Star 20X tickets they entered through the Nebraska Lottery's MVP club.

Atherton said she entered 78 tickets in what became sort of a weekly tradition.

"My daughter was able to work from home when she was pregnant," she said. "I would go over on Wednesdays to take her lunch and bring five Scratch tickets for her and five for me."

They scratched together and while they won a little bit, never hit any big prizes. They both entered their non-winning tickets in the second-chance drawing and then sort of forgot about it, Atherton said.

When she got the call she was confused at first.

"He said I won the Yuletide Ride contest and I forgot what the prize was," she said. "He told me I won a new Bronco and I said, 'You gotta be kidding me!'"

Final Trucks Claimed in 2024 Truck\$ & Buck\$ Game

The 2024 Truck\$ & Buck\$ Scratch game ended in January with a pair of winners driving home new trucks.

Nick Schwager of Petersburg was the seventh winner of a 2024 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 SuperCrew truck. Schwager purchased his winning Truck\$ & Buck\$ ticket at Cedar's Rapid Stop at 615 S 2nd St. in Cedar Rapids. He was presented with his new truck on Thursday, January 2 by Nebraska Lottery officials.

Schwager said he'd stopped off at Cedar's Rapid Stop after work one night and picked up a few Truck\$ & Buck\$ tickets. He didn't get a chance to scratch them off until the following evening, but when he did, he was shocked.

"I didn't believe it," Schwager said. "This has to be a glitch, I don't think it's possible."

On January 17, Debra and Kenneth Karel of Clarkson were presented with the final truck in the 2024 Truck\$ & Buck\$ game. The Karels purchased their winning ticket at Didier's Grocery at 122 W 16th St. in Schuyler.

It was a series of lucky coincidences that led to the win, Kenneth said. They'd been in town for an appointment and stopped at Didier's for some groceries before heading back to Clarkson. On their way out, Kenneth decided to play a few tickets.

On the ride back he started scratching off the ticket but ended up not finishing it until the next morning. "I scratched it off and looked at my wife who was sitting in a chair across the room," Kenneth said. "I saw three trucks and asked her, 'do you think this is real?'"

"It took a while for it to register," Debra said.

After a short break, Truck\$ & Buck\$ will return on February 24 with eight gray Ford F-150 trucks to win. If your store sells a truck-winning ticket, we'll be stopping by to celebrate with you!

Upcoming Scratch:

Gold Hard Ca\$h (\$5)

Game Number: 1331

Top Prize: \$50,000

Overall Odds: 1:3.90

Free Tickets: Yes

Truck\$ & Buck\$ (\$2)

Game Number: 1342

Top Prize: 2025 FORD

F-150 XLT TRUCK

Overall Odds: 1:3.69

Free Tickets: Yes

Power Play (\$5)

Game Number: 1344

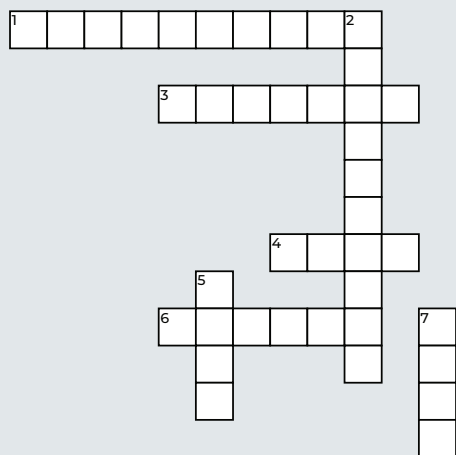
Top Prize: \$30,000

Overall Odds: 1:4.85

Free Tickets: No



Loyal Readers Contest



Down:

2. _____ form in a variety of shapes, leading to the notion that “no two are alike”.
5. When introduced in 1948, the ___ F-Series was the only truck on the market featuring an all-new post-war design.
7. There are no breakeven prizes in the new Mega Millions game, so if you win, your prize will always be _____ than the cost of a play.

Across:

1. The first mass-produced _____ were sold shortly after 1847, making them easier to share with someone special in February.
3. The starting _____ for Mega Millions will increase to \$50 million when the new game starts in April.
4. In a _____ year, the month of February has an extra day (Feb. 29).
6. You can win _____ prizes in the 2by2 Cash Blast promotion if you buy a multi-draw 2by2 ticket in a multiple of seven draws.

Enter To Win

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Retailer: _____

Enter your store by completing and mailing this entry coupon to:

Nebraska Lottery, P.O. Box 95105, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Note: Entries not drawn previously will not be retained.

Be sure your store is entered each month.

The Nebraska Lottery likes to reward retailers who read Ticket Talk.

Each month, we will draw 10 entries from among retailer entries received by the designated (March 28) deadline. Those entries that correctly complete the accompanying crossword puzzle will win.

The prize will be \$10 in Scratch ticket coupons for every employee who sells Lottery tickets at the winner's location. LSRs will have premium prizes for those employees under the age of 19.

Retailer Spotlight

Baker's #321



We get lots of emails sent to the Nebraska Lottery inbox. Usually it's a player who needs help with their MVP Club password, sometimes it's people who have questions about a game, sometimes it's people who just need to air some frustrations with us.

That's why it was a surprise for us when we got an email from Chris Anderson of Omaha who wanted to tell us about an employee going above and beyond when it comes to lottery.

Chris is a regular customer at Baker's #321 at 505 N 155th Plaza in Omaha and said he's got nothing but good things to say about his frequent grocery bagger, Kristin.

Kristin, who Baker's asked we only use her first name in this story, has been with the store for over 30 years and knows just about everyone who comes down her line and is a fount of lottery knowledge.

In January, Chris decided it was time to tell us about his favorite employee and sent an email titled "Your biggest promoter".

"Good evening

I just wanted to write to someone at the lottery to tell you about a special person who works as a bagger at the Bakers at 155th and Pepperwood in Omaha.

Her name is Kristin, and she helps people with their groceries. For years, every time I shop, she encourages me to buy lottery tickets. She knows (without looking) how much the winning jackpots are and follows me to tell customer service the tickets to buy. I make sure I have her tell me just what to do.

She promotes your games and if there is a way anyone there can give her some recognition, I know it would be a big deal for her."

It's a big deal for us too, Chris.

Thank you, Kristin, we really appreciate all the work you do to keep people up to date on all things Nebraska Lottery!

Preventing Ticket Thefts

Scam artists are targeting lottery retailers to steal tickets. Schemes have been reported recently where suspects attempt to confuse retail clerks with unusual payment methods. They provide bogus and confusing instructions to complete a transaction without any payment.

We recommend using caution and strictly adhere to your store's policies on accepting payments. If you have any questions about potential scams, contact Nebraska Lottery Security at 800-587-5200.

Loyal Readers Contest Winners

Each month, readers of Ticket Talk have a chance to win prizes through the Loyal Readers Crossword Contest. Here are the winners from the November/December edition of the contest:

Taylor Compton,
Tom's Service,
Pierce

Michele Kasperek,
Super Saver #19,
Grand Island

Leah Ratzlaff,
Coach's Corner,
Hastings

Mike Gokie,
Fast Mart #4,
Columbus

Kim Severeid,
Murphy Express,
Lincoln

Tammy Redman,
Git-N-Split,
Seward

Rob Wilson,
Trotters Whoa & Go,
Merna

Terri McKean,
Apple Market,
Kearney

Liz Kailwitz,
Hebron Liquor Store,
Hebron

Pam Nichols,
Sonny's Super Foods,
Cozad

The above winners answered the questions to last month's crossword puzzle correctly.

The prize was \$10 in Scratch ticket coupons and premiums for every employee who sells lottery tickets at the winners' location. LSRs will have premium prizes for those employees under the age of 19.

Ten winners are selected each month. Be sure your store is entered. See the crossword puzzle and entry form on the next page.