

# Cottage Food Liability Insurance Requirements by State

A 50-state guide to what cottage food law actually requires, plus the venues, partners, and situations where liability coverage typically gets demanded in practice.

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50

states surveyed

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states legally require insurance

\$1M / \$2M

typical farmers market COI limit

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Prepared by Crosodo

Research compiled June 2026

Companion to the Cottage Baker Liability Insurance FAQ

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# Executive summary

This report summarizes liability insurance requirements for cottage food operations in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, current as of June 2026. The conclusions, in short:

## Key findings

- No U.S. state legally requires cottage food producers to carry liability insurance as a condition of operating under a cottage food, homemade food, or food freedom law.
- Insurance requirements are venue-driven, not state-driven. Most established farmers markets require vendors to carry \$1M per-occurrence / \$2M aggregate general and product liability coverage, and to name the market as additional insured.
- Craft fairs, county fairs, indoor pop-ups, wedding venues, and retail consignment partners typically require similar proof of insurance.
- Homeowners and renters policies almost always exclude business activity, including food sales. A separate small-business policy or endorsement is usually needed.
- Group policies exist in some states (Wisconsin and Minnesota offer state farmers market association group coverage), which can lower the cost meaningfully for small operators.
- The most popular providers for cottage food specifically are FLIP (Food Liability Insurance Program) and Insurance Canopy, both around \$299/yr for annual coverage with on-demand certificates of insurance.

## How to read each state page

Each state section lists the formal state-law position on insurance, a summary of the underlying cottage food or food freedom statute, the venues and situations where insurance is most commonly required in practice, and a source link for further reading.

This document is informational, not legal advice. Confirm current requirements with your state agriculture or health department before relying on any specific detail.

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# Alabama

AL

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Alabama's cottage food law (SB 159, 2014; amended SB 160, 2021) does not require liability insurance. Producers must complete a basic food safety training course and obtain approval from their local health department before selling, but no insurance mandate exists in state law. Homeowner's or renter's insurance typically does not cover business food sales, so producers are strongly advised to obtain separate product liability coverage.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers market vendor agreements (market-imposed, not state-required)
- Craft fairs and festivals
- Indoor markets and pop-up events

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/alabama/>

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# Alaska

AK

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Alaska's food freedom law (HB 251, 2024) replaced its older cottage food law and does not require liability insurance. Producers need only a state business license before selling. The Municipality of Anchorage has its own rules, which also do not mandate insurance. Markets and events may independently require proof of liability coverage.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail locations
- Special events and craft fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/alaska/>

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# Arizona

AZ

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Arizona's cottage food law (HB 2042, 2024) does not require liability insurance. Producers must register with the state health department and complete an ANSI-accredited food safety training course. With approximately 10,000 registered businesses, Arizona has one of the most active cottage food programs in the country, and no state-level insurance requirement exists.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Fairs and festivals
- Retail stores accepting cottage food

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/arizona/>

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# Arkansas

AR

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Arkansas's Food Freedom Act (SB 248, 2021) does not require liability insurance. Producers are explicitly exempted from permits and state government oversight, and the law prohibits state and local governments from restricting home food producers. No insurance mandate appears in the statute.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores
- Events and festivals

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/arkansas/>

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# California

CA

Required by state law

No

## State law summary

California's Cottage Food Operation (CFO) law (AB 1616, amended AB 1144/AB 831) does not require liability insurance for Class A or Class B operations. The Sustainable Economies Law Center has confirmed no state-level insurance mandate. California's Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) program, enabled by AB 626 (2018), also does not legally require insurance, though the COOK Alliance strongly recommends it for MEHKO due to the broader food service involved. Sales limits are \$86,206/year (Class A) and \$172,411/year (Class B) as of 2025.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail placement (Class B operations)
- MEHKO operations (strongly recommended)
- Temporary events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/california/>

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# Colorado

CO

Required by state law	No
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## State law summary

Colorado's Cottage Foods Act (amended through SB 16-058) does not require liability insurance. Direct sales are the only permitted channel, and no license from the health department is needed. The law limits sales to \$10,000 per product/ flavor (rather than an overall annual cap). No insurance requirement exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Online delivery to customers

Source: <https://furrager.com/law/colorado/>

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# Connecticut

CT

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Connecticut's cottage food law (PA 18-141, 2018) does not require liability insurance. Producers must obtain a \$50 annual license from the Department of Consumer Protection, pass a food handler training course, and undergo a home kitchen inspection, but no insurance is mandated by state law. The sales limit is \$50,000 per year. Farmers operating under the Residential Farm exemption have separate rules but also no insurance mandate.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and craft fairs
- Pop-up sales venues

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/connecticut/>

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# Delaware

DE

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Delaware's cottage food law (2016, updated 2023) does not require liability insurance. The registration process is among the most complex in the nation, requiring a full application, home kitchen inspection, and comprehensive food safety training, but insurance is not mandated. The sales limit was removed in December 2023. Farmers may additionally seek an on-farm home processing license, which also carries no insurance mandate.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and festivals
- Farm stands

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/delaware/>

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# Florida

FL

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Florida's cottage food law (HB 7209, 2011; amended 2017, 2021) does not require liability insurance. No license, inspection, or training from the ag department is required to start selling. Products must be sold directly to consumers and cannot be combined with sales under other permits at the same event. No insurance mandate exists in Florida cottage food statutes.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Craft fairs and festivals
- Pop-up events

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/florida/>

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# Georgia

GA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Georgia's cottage food law (most recently HB 398, 2025) does not require liability insurance. As of 2025, Georgia has one of the best cottage food laws in the country — producers can sell almost any non-perishable food at any venue, including wholesale and online, without a license or health department inspection. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail and wholesale venues
- Events and craft fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/georgia/>

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# Hawaii

HI

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Hawaii's homemade food (HMF) operation rules (HAR 11-50, updated 2017; HB 2144, 2024) do not require liability insurance. Producers must take a food safety training course before selling but face no state-mandated insurance requirement. Some individual farmers markets or events on the islands may independently require vendor insurance.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement, varies by island/market)
- Retail stores
- Special events and festivals

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/hawaii/>

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# Idaho

ID

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Idaho has codified its cottage food rules to allow the sale of low-risk homemade foods without a license. No liability insurance is required under state law. Producers can sell directly to consumers at most venues with no sales limit, and local governments are prohibited from adding restrictions beyond state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Online sales deliveries

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/idaho/>

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# Illinois

IL

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Illinois's cottage food law (most recently expanded in 2018 with HB 3063) does not require liability insurance. Producers must register with their local county health department for up to \$50/year and obtain a Certified Food Protection Manager certification. No insurance is mandated by state statute, but the registration process requires food safety planning documentation.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and festivals
- Indoor markets and pop-up sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/illinois/>

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# Indiana

IN

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Indiana's cottage food law (HB 1149, 2022) does not require liability insurance. The law prohibits local governments from requiring licenses, inspections, or imposing restrictions beyond state law. There is no sales limit and no insurance mandate at the state level.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Craft fairs and events
- Pop-up and indoor markets

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/indiana/>

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# Iowa

IA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Iowa's cottage food law (HF 2431, 2022) does not require liability insurance. Iowa has one of the most producer-friendly frameworks in the nation — no sales limit, no license, no inspection, and the law prohibits local governments from adding restrictions. Iowa also has a Home Food Processing Establishment pathway for perishable foods, which also carries no state insurance mandate.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Roadside stands
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/iowa/>

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# Kansas

KS

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Kansas cottage food rules (KS Statutes 65-689) do not require liability insurance. Producers are exempt from ag department licensing, face no sales limit, and can sell most non-perishable foods directly to consumers, including interstate sales with some additional steps. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Online sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/kansas/>

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# Kentucky

KY

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Kentucky's home-based processor law (KRS 217.136, amended HB 263, 2018) does not require liability insurance. Producers must register with the health department (\$50 fee) but do not need an inspection or food safety training. Sales are limited to \$60,000 per year. No insurance mandate exists under state statute.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Roadside stands

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/kentucky/>

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# Louisiana

LA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Louisiana's cottage food law (Act 542, 2013; amended HB 1270, 2014; HB 828, 2022) does not require liability insurance. Producers must obtain a Louisiana General Sales Tax Certificate before selling. Sales are limited to \$30,000 per year. No insurance mandate exists in state law, though event venues and markets frequently impose their own requirements.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Retail stores (for allowed products)

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/louisiana/>

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# Maine

ME

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Maine's home food manufacturing law (Chapter 345, 1980) does not require liability insurance. Producers must obtain a Home Food Processor License and pass a home kitchen inspection. Selling at farmers markets requires an additional Mobile Food Vendor License. Some Maine municipalities have enacted local food sovereignty ordinances that remove even these requirements. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (some markets impose insurance requirements)
- Restaurants and retail (allowed venues)
- Events and festivals

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/maine/>

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# Maryland

MD

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Maryland's cottage food law (SB 550, 2012; amended through 2020) does not require liability insurance. No permit, inspection, or training is required for standard direct sales, though selling through retail stores requires an additional application. Sales are limited to \$50,000 per year. No insurance mandate exists in state law. Farmers with an On-Farm Home Processing License also face no insurance mandate.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail store placement
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/maryland/>

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# Massachusetts

MA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Massachusetts's residential kitchen law (105 CMR 590, 2000) does not require liability insurance. However, residential kitchens are treated as food establishments, requiring a permit from the local board of health, a home kitchen inspection, and often food safety and allergen training courses. The permit fee is typically \$50–\$100/year. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores and restaurants (allowed venues)
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/massachusetts/>

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# Michigan

MI

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Michigan's cottage food law (HB 5280, 2010; amended HB 5130, 2012; HB 4122, 2025) does not require liability insurance. Producers need no license or inspection from the ag department. Sales are limited to \$50,000/year (or \$75,000 for items priced at \$250 or more). No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Online delivery

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/michigan/>

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# Minnesota

MN

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Minnesota's cottage food law (SF 5, 2015; amended SF 958, 2021) does not require liability insurance. The state has a two-tier system based on annual sales: below \$7,665 requires a free basic training, while up to \$78,000 requires a \$50 cottage food training course. The Minnesota Farmers' Market Association offers a group insurance program for vendors, but this is market-imposed, not state-mandated. No insurance requirement exists in state statute.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (Minnesota Farmers' Market Association group policy available)
- Community events
- Home delivery

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/minnesota/>

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# Mississippi

MS

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Mississippi's cottage food law (SB 2553, 2013) does not require liability insurance. No registration or permit from the health department is needed to start selling. Sales are limited to \$35,000 per year, and only direct sales to consumers are allowed. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and roadside stands
- Home sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/mississippi/>

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# Missouri

MO

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Missouri has two cottage food pathways and neither requires liability insurance. The primary law allows sales from home and online with no sales limit, permit, or training course required. A second law allows limited sales of certain products at events. No insurance mandate exists in either state statute.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Events and fairs (some event organizers require it)
- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Online delivery

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/missouri/>

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# Montana

MT

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Montana's Local Food Choice Act (SB 199, 2021) replaced the prior cottage food law and is a broad food freedom statute. No license, permit, inspection, food safety training, or insurance is required under state law. Sales are unrestricted, and local governments cannot add restrictions for sales directly from the producer to the consumer.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Roadside stands

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/montana/>

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# Nebraska

NE

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Nebraska's cottage food law allows sales of most homemade foods, including some perishable items. Producers must register with the state ag department (inexpensive), but no liability insurance is required by state law. There is no sales limit, and indirect sales are not allowed.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Online direct sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/nebraska/>

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# Nevada

NV

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Nevada's cottage food law (SB 206, 2013; updated AB 352, 2025) does not require liability insurance. Registration is required but free in most rural counties; Clark County (Las Vegas) charges over \$200. Sales are limited and direct-only. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Home pickup and delivery

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/nevada/>

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# New Hampshire

NH

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

New Hampshire has a two-tier homestead food operation system: unlicensed (for farmers markets and roadside stands only) and licensed (for broader sales including retail). Neither tier requires liability insurance under state law. There is no sales limit, and licensed operations can sell at most venues.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores (licensed tier)
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/new-hampshire/>

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# New Jersey

NJ

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

New Jersey's cottage food law requires producers to obtain a permit (\$100 every two years) and complete a food safety manager's training course (~\$200 total), but does not mandate liability insurance. Sales are limited, direct-only, and restricted to non-perishable foods. When selling at markets or events, the cottage food permit must be displayed alongside the required disclosure signage. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Farm stands

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/new-jersey/>

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# New Mexico

NM

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

New Mexico's Homemade Food Act (HB 177, 2021) replaced the prior complex law and does not require liability insurance. Producers can sell most non-perishable foods directly anywhere in the state with no sales limit, no license, and no health department oversight. Indirect sales (to retail stores, restaurants) are not allowed.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and craft fairs
- Home pickup and delivery

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/new-mexico/>

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# New York

NY

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

New York's home processor exemption (updated 2018 by the ag department) does not require liability insurance. Registration with the ag department is free. There is no sales limit for home processors. Producers can sell at most venues including restaurants and retail stores. No insurance mandate exists in state law, though New York venues and markets very commonly require proof of at least \$1 million in general liability coverage.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed; NYC-area markets commonly require \$1M GLI)
- Retail stores and restaurants
- Events and indoor markets
- Venues and commercial spaces

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/new-york/>

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# North Carolina

NC

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

North Carolina operates a home processor program through the NC Department of Agriculture without formal statutory authority (no specific cottage food law exists). Producers must complete an application, undergo a home kitchen inspection, and have no pets in the home. The program has no state-mandated insurance requirement, and the Department of Agriculture provides education and support for home-based food businesses.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Retail and restaurant sales (allowed under program)

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

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# North Dakota

ND

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

North Dakota's food freedom law (HB 1433, 2017) does not require liability insurance. After a successful lawsuit by the Institute for Justice restored the food freedom law in 2020, there is almost no regulation — no licensing, no kitchen inspection, and no sales limit. Producers can sell any food product except meat (with limited poultry exceptions).

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Roadside stands and online sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/north-dakota/>

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# Ohio

OH

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Ohio's cottage food law (ORC 3715.01, 3717.22) does not require liability insurance. No license from the ag department is required and there is no sales limit. Sales are permitted at farmers markets, government-organized festivals, farm markets, and via limited wholesale to grocery stores and restaurants. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Government-organized festivals
- Grocery stores and restaurants accepting cottage food

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/ohio/>

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# Oklahoma

OK

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Oklahoma's Homemade Food Freedom Act (HB 1032, 2021; amended HB 2975, 2024) does not require liability insurance. Sales are limited to \$75,000 per year and no permit from the ag department is required. The law explicitly prohibits state and local governments from restricting home food producers. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores
- Events and festivals

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/oklahoma/>

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# Oregon

OR

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Oregon's cottage food law (SB 320, 2016; amended SB 643, 2024) does not require liability insurance. Producers must complete a food handler training (\$10) and can sell up to \$50,000/year of non-perishable foods at most venues including retail stores. Oregon also has a Domestic Kitchen license and Farm Direct Bill for additional flexibility, neither of which mandate insurance.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/oregon/>

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# Pennsylvania

PA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Pennsylvania's limited food establishment program (PA Food Code Section 212) does not require liability insurance. The registration process is extensive — requiring a detailed business plan, home inspection, and product lab testing for some items — and costs \$35/year. Once registered, producers can sell anywhere including interstate and in restaurants, with no sales limit. No insurance mandate exists.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores and restaurants
- Events and interstate sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/pennsylvania/>

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# Rhode Island

RI

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Rhode Island's cottage food manufacturer law (H 7123, 2022) does not require liability insurance. Producers must register annually (\$65), take a food safety training course, and follow kitchen sanitation rules. Sales are limited to \$50,000/year of nonperishable baked goods. Farmers selling \$2,500+ in ag products annually may also use the Farm Home Food Manufacturer law. No insurance mandate exists.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Home delivery and online sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/rhode-island/>

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# South Carolina

SC

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

South Carolina's cottage food law (H 4689, 2012; amended 2018, 2022) does not require liability insurance. No sales limit, no permit, no health department inspection, and no food safety training is required under state law. Producers can sell direct and wholesale. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores and wholesale
- Events and craft fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/south-carolina/>

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# South Dakota

SD

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

South Dakota's cottage food law (2010; amended 2011, 2020, 2022) does not require liability insurance. There is no sales limit, and producers can sell a broad range of foods including some perishable items (with food safety training). Only direct sales are allowed. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Roadside stands

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/south-dakota/>

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# Tennessee

TN

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Tennessee's food freedom law (HB 813, 2022; amended HB 130, 2025) does not require liability insurance. Producers can sell most food types (including many perishable foods) at most venues with no sales limit, no license, and no permit from state authorities. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Retail stores
- Events and festivals

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/tennessee/>

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# Texas

TX

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Texas's cottage food production law (most recently SB 541, 2025) does not require liability insurance. Cottage food producers cannot form an LLC under state law, but insurance is still not mandated by statute. The law explicitly prohibits local governments from licensing, permitting, or regulating cottage food operations. Insurance is strongly recommended as personal assets are at risk; some Texas farmers markets require it as a vendor condition.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (some markets require \$1M GLI as vendor condition)
- Retail stores (now allowed)
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/texas/>

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# Utah

UT

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Utah's Home Consumption and Homemade Food Act (HB 181, 2018) does not require liability insurance. The law exempts producers from state, county, and city licensing, permitting, certification, inspection, and most labeling requirements. Utah also has a Mini Restaurant (MEHKO-style) law (HB 94, 2021) that similarly does not mandate insurance, though it is strongly recommended for the food service model. No insurance mandate exists in either law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Mini restaurant operations (strongly recommended)
- Events and fairs

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/utah/>

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# Vermont

VT

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Vermont's home bakery law (pioneered in the 1990s) does not require liability insurance. A Home Bakery license costs \$100/year, but no license is needed for sales under \$125/week. Vermont is among the most flexible states for home food businesses, allowing almost any baked good. A separate Home Caterer license applies to on-demand food preparation. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Home caterer operations (recommended)

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/vermont/>

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# Virginia

VA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Virginia's cottage food law allows producers to sell non-perishable foods from home and at farmers markets and events without a license or inspection. No liability insurance is required by state law. Producers wanting broader sales (more food types, more venues) can apply as a Home Food Processing Operation, which requires a kitchen inspection but still no insurance mandate.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Roadside stands

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/virginia/>

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# Washington

WA

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Washington state's cottage food law (69.22 RCW, 2011) does not require liability insurance, but it is one of the most burdensome cottage food permit processes in the nation. A permit costs \$355 (renewable every two years), requires a business license, detailed business plan, annual home inspection, and label approval. Sales are limited to \$35,000/year. No insurance is mandated by state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Online sales and delivery

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/washington/>

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# West Virginia

WV

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

West Virginia's cottage food law (SB 285, 2019) removed almost all prior restrictions and is now one of the best in the country. Producers can sell almost any non-perishable food from any venue, with no sales limit, no license, and no permit. No insurance mandate exists in state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and fairs
- Roadside stands and online sales

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/west-virginia/>

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# Wisconsin

WI

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Wisconsin's cottage food framework allows the sale of nonperishable baked goods (under a long-standing ruling) and the sale of some canned goods under the 'Pickle Bill.' Neither pathway requires liability insurance under state law. There is no overall sales limit, though Wisconsin once had a \$5,000 limit for bakers that was challenged. No insurance mandate exists in current state law.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (market-imposed requirement)
- Events and craft fairs
- Indoor markets

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/wisconsin/>

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# Wyoming

WY

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

Wyoming's Wyoming Food Freedom Act (2015; amended 2020, 2021) is widely considered the best cottage food and food freedom law in the United States. There are zero regulations from any government agency — no permits, no inspections, no sales limit (other than a \$250,000 cap added in 2020), and no insurance mandate. Producers can sell almost any food directly to consumers.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets (some markets have their own requirements)
- Events and fairs
- Restaurants (allowed venue)

Source: <https://forrager.com/law/wyoming/>

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# District of Columbia

DC

Required by state law **No**

## State law summary

DC's Cottage Food Act of 2013 (D.C. Law 20-63; amended 2025 by D.C. Law 26-7) does not require liability insurance. However, DC has one of the more burdensome cottage food programs — producers must obtain a Home Occupancy Permit from the Department of Buildings, complete a Certified Food Protection Manager course, and register with the DC Health Cottage Food Business Registry (with a possible pre-operational inspection). The 2025 amendment expanded permitted sales to include wholesale to licensed food establishments. The Institute for Justice rates DC's law a 'D' overall. No insurance mandate exists.

## Common situations requiring insurance

- Farmers markets and public events (market-imposed requirement)
- Wholesale buyers (licensed food establishments)
- Pop-up and indoor markets

Source: <https://dchealth.dc.gov/publication/cottage-food-businesses>

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# Providers commonly used by cottage food operators

FLIP (Food Liability Insurance Program) —

<https://www.flipprogram.com/cottage-food-law-insurance>

\$299/yr (under \$50K revenue) or \$399/yr (over \$50K). Endorsed by the Farmers Market Coalition. Issues additional-insured COIs instantly online. Most-recommended option for cottage food.

Insurance Canopy — <https://www.insurancecanopy.com/small-business-insurance/cost>

\$299/yr annual or \$49/event. Comparable to FLIP. Fast online quotes and COI issuance.

ACT Insurance — <https://www.actinsurance.com/farmers-markets-insurance>

\$279/yr ACT Pro or \$49/event ACT Go. Caution: standard ACT policy is designed for arts and crafts and excludes Products-Completed Operations for food. Confirm food coverage in writing before relying on it.

Thimble — <https://www.thimble.com/industry/event-business-insurance/home-baker>

Flexible hourly, daily, or monthly coverage. Useful if you only do a few markets or events per year.

State Farm — <https://www.statefarm.com/small-business-solutions/insurance>

In-home business endorsement or umbrella rider added to existing homeowners policy. Approximately \$9.50-\$25/month. Availability varies heavily by state and agent.

Farm Bureau — <https://www.fbfs.com/>

State-level availability. Often competitive for rural bakers already insuring a vehicle or farm with Farm Bureau.

Hiscox — <https://www.hiscox.com/small-business-insurance/general-liability-insurance>

General liability for small businesses. ~\$87/month for general liability only.

The Hartford — <https://www.thehartford.com/small-business-insurance>

Business Owner Policy bundling general liability, product liability, and property. ~\$2,469/yr for a full BOP.

## Additional reading

- Forrager — Cottage food laws by state — <https://forrager.com/laws/>

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- Forrager — How insurance helps cottage food operations — <https://forrager.com/liability-insurance-helps-cottage-food-operations/>
  - Texas Cottage Food Law — Liability insurance page — <https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/liability-insurance/>
  - Farmers Market Coalition — <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/>
  - Wisconsin Farmers Market Association group policy — <https://www.wifarmersmarkets.org/insurance>
  - Minnesota Farmers Market Association group policy — <https://www.mfma.org/Insurance-Group-Policy-Program>
  - Allergic Living — 2024 fatal allergic reaction lawsuit — <https://www.allergicliving.com/2024/05/24/grocer-baker-face-lawsuit-over-dancers-fatal-allergic-reaction/>

This document is informational and is not legal, financial, or insurance advice. Cottage food regulations and insurance carrier offerings change frequently. Verify current state law with your state agriculture or health department and confirm policy terms in writing with any insurer before relying on coverage.