

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

La Plata County

Colorado · Durango · FIPS 08067 · Population 55,983 ·
Crosodo Index #1264*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Cottage Foods Act, amended 2022)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

La Plata County, Colorado — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Colorado cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Colorado home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Colorado label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

COLORADO: LA PLATA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1264* · FIPS 08067 · Durango

La Plata County

Population 55,983 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Cottage Foods Act, amended 2022) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous, non-refrigerated foods only. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total). Direct sales only; no retail stores. CDPHE free registration required. Food handler certification course required (e.g., CSU Extension \$50, 3.5hr, or online ~\$10-15).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (La Plata County (unincorporated areas) does not require a general business license for cottage food operations per county licensing page. However, businesses operating in Durango city limits must obtain a Durango business license (processing fee \$30 one-time plus annual fee based on employees). Bayfield and Ignacio have similar requirements. La Plata County Planning Dept. may require land use permit review for home-based businesses under county land use code (chapters 62-90). Phone: La Plata County Planning 970-382-6263.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (CDPHE may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-potentially hazardous, non-refrigerated foods only. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total). Direct sales only; no retail stores. CDPHE free registration required. Food handler certification course required (e.g., CSU Extension \$50, 3.5hr, or online ~\$10-15).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.

HANDWASHING

Covered under required food safety course.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-refrigerated shelf-stable products only. Allowed: baked goods, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or below), jams/jellies/preserves, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods, whole eggs (under 250 dozen/month).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — CDPHE may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — La Plata County (unincorporated areas) does not require a general business license for cottage food operations per county licensing page. However, businesses operating in Durango city limits must obtain a Durango business license (processing fee \$30 one-time plus annual fee based on employees). Bayfield and Ignacio have similar requirements. La Plata County Planning Dept. may require land use permit review for home-based businesses under county land use code (chapters 62-90). Phone: La Plata County Planning 970-382-6263.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only. Person-to-person, bake sales, farmers markets, neighbors, events. No sales to retail stores or restaurants. Commercial kitchens available at La Plata County Fairgrounds and Manna Soup Kitchen in Durango if scaling up.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in CO statute; cottage food operations are personal operations.

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; La Plata County Land Use Code Chapters 62-90; Durango business license requirements

RESEARCH NOTES

La Plata County includes Durango, a recreation-focused mountain town. Durango city limits requires a local business license (\$30 one-time + annual fee based on employees). Unincorporated La Plata County does not require a general business license but may require land use review. CSU Extension in La Plata County offers the required food safety certification course. The Durango Herald article (2017) confirmed Durango license requirements; these are likely still current. HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act, 2026) pending and would expand CO cottage foods significantly.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/administration/licensing.php>

<https://www.lpcgov.org>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

<https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/administration/licensing.php>

<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/what-does-it-take-to-turn-your-cooking-into-a-cottage-food/>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/colorado/la-plata-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	La Plata County	Archuleta County	Dolores County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	False	False
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only. Person-to-person, bake sales, farmers markets, neighbors, events. No sales to retail stores or restaurants. Commer...	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Possibly	Possibly
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Possibly; Town of Pagosa Springs may require a town business license for operations within town limits; confirm with Town of Pagosa Springs	Unlikely; very rural county; confirm with Dolores County or Town of Dove Creek
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous, non-refrigerated foods only. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total). Direct sales only; no retail stores. CD...	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	Non-refrigerated shelf-stable products only. Allowed: baked goods, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or below), jams/jellies/preserves, spi...	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)
POPULATION	55,983	13,509	2,329

State context — Colorado cottage food law

La Plata County's rules sit on top of Colorado's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

INDIRECT SALES

No — Products cannot be resold; producers must sell directly to consumers but may designate a representative to sell on their behalf. Sales through restaurants or retail stores are not permitted, though the health department may allow direct sales at those locations on a case-by-case basis.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Colorado cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/colorado.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf

State dept cottage food page: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/colorado/>

Questions about La Plata County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/colorado/la-plata-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in La Plata County, Colorado. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/colorado/la-plata-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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