

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Larimer County

Colorado · Fort Collins · FIPS 08069 · Population 359,363 ·
Crosodo Index #1677*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
C.R.S. §25-4-1614	Great	Tiered (see notes)	HIGH	2026-05-06

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

Larimer 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?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No state or county-specific cottage food pet restriction found; CDPHE general guidance applies.

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: LARIMER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1677* · FIPS 08069 · Fort Collins

Larimer County

Population 359,363 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Colorado state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) requires production in the home kitchen. Free CDPHE registration required. Food handler course (e.g., CSU Extension \$50/3.5hr or equivalent) required before selling. Larimer County unincorporated areas follow county Land Use Code home occupation rules. Fort Collins (the county seat and largest city) is an incorporated municipality with its own separate home occupation requirements that differ from county rules — residents in Fort Collins must follow city rules, not county rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state or county-specific cottage food pet restriction found; CDPHE general guidance applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (LARIMER COUNTY (unincorporated): Home occupations require a Registration Certificate submitted to Larimer County Planning (planning@larimer.org or 200 W Oak Street, Fort Collins, 3rd Floor). Two tiers: (1) Limited Home Occupation — up to 50% of home interior (max 800 sq ft including basement/attached garage), max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Registration Certificate only; (2) Large Home Occupation — 800-1,200 sq ft interior, up to 800 sq ft outdoor storage, max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Administrative Special Review plus Registration Certificate. Operator must occupy the residence as primary dwelling. Max 1 non-resident employee at the site. On-site sales events allowed up to 30 per calendar year for products made on-site. FORT COLLINS (city, separate rules): Home Occupation License required (\$25 fee, valid 2 years); submit to zoning@fcgov.com or Development Review Center, 281 North College Avenue. Max 50% of home for business; max 1 non-resident employee; no retail sales except incidental to services; no exterior storage beyond principal residence; limited signage (max 2-4 sq ft). Contact: 970-498-7860 (Larimer County Clerk), Fort Collins Zoning at fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Colorado state law allows CDPHE inspection upon complaint. No routine inspections for registered cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Colorado state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) requires production in the home kitchen. Free CDPHE registration required. Food handler course (e.g., CSU Extension \$50/3.5hr or equivalent) required before selling. Larimer County unincorporated areas follow county Land Use Code home occupation rules. Fort Collins (the county seat and largest city) is an incorporated municipality with its own separate home occupation requirements that differ from county rules — residents in Fort Collins must follow city rules, not county rules.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state or county-specific cottage food pet restriction found; CDPHE general guidance applies.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required per state cottage food standards; no additional county overlay found.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities required per state cottage food standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored properly to prevent contamination per state guidance; no county-specific overlay beyond state standards.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Colorado state law allows CDPHE inspection upon complaint. No routine inspections for registered cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — LARIMER COUNTY (unincorporated): Home occupations require a Registration Certificate submitted to Larimer County Planning (planning@larimer.org or 200 W Oak Street, Fort Collins, 3rd Floor). Two tiers: (1) Limited Home Occupation — up to 50% of home interior (max 800 sq ft including basement/attached garage), max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Registration Certificate only; (2) Large Home Occupation — 800-1,200 sq ft interior, up to 800 sq ft outdoor storage, max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Administrative Special Review plus Registration Certificate. Operator must occupy the residence as primary dwelling. Max 1 non-resident employee at the site. On-site sales events allowed up to 30 per calendar year for products made on-site. FORT COLLINS (city, separate rules): Home Occupation License required (\$25 fee, valid 2 years); submit to zoning@fcgov.com or Development Review Center, 281 North College Avenue. Max 50% of home for business; max 1 non-resident employee; no retail sales except incidental to services; no exterior storage beyond principal residence; limited signage (max 2-4 sq ft). Contact: 970-498-7860 (Larimer County Clerk), Fort Collins Zoning at fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Colorado cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales only (no wholesale, no retail stores). Products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (with in-person/mail delivery). Home sales and customer pickup from residence are permitted under state law. Larimer County limits on-site retail sales events to 30 per calendar year for home-produced goods. Fort Collins prohibits off-site retail storage; on-site sales must be incidental to services provided.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Larimer County unincorporated: 1 non-resident employee at the site (plus any number of resident occupants). Fort Collins: 1 non-resident employee or co-worker at the site.

Relevant county code

Larimer County Land Use Code §3.4.7.B (Home Occupations); Fort Collins Land Use Code Article 4, Section 4.3.1(G); C.R.S. §25-4-1614

RESEARCH NOTES

Larimer County (pop. ~359K, county seat Fort Collins) has well-documented home occupation rules. The county's official website ([larimer.gov/planning/accessory-home-occupations](https://www.larimer.gov/planning/accessory-home-occupations)) provides detailed, current information on the two-tier home occupation classification system. The official Larimer County home occupation handout (updated March 11, 2022) and the county planning department's FAQ page confirm the Registration Certificate process, space limits, vehicle trip limits, and the 30-events-per-year on-site sales rule. Fort Collins is a separate incorporated city (pop. ~168K) with its own Home Occupation License (\$25, 2-year validity) administered through the City Zoning Division — CityRuleLookup (verified 9 months ago) and the official fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness page both confirm these rules. Key distinction: Fort Collins explicitly prohibits 'no retail sales from the site other than incidental sales related to services provided' which may limit direct cottage food sales from the Fort Collins home address; producers in Fort Collins likely need to sell at farmers markets rather than from home. Colorado state cottage food law requires CDPHE registration and food handler certification. The \$10,000 per-product annual cap (not total revenue) applies statewide under current law; HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act) pending as of 2026 would expand allowances if enacted. Note: 'value-added agriculture' is expressly prohibited as a home occupation in Larimer County — producers should verify their specific products qualify under standard cottage food (not value-added ag) classification.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.larimer.gov>

<https://www.larimer.gov/planning/accessory-home-occupations>

<https://fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness>

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

https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2022/home_occupations_handout.pdf

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/larimer-county-co>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Larimer County	Weld County	Boulder County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state or county-specific cottage food pet restriction found; CDPHE general guidance applies.	No specific state restriction; kitchen sanitation required	No specific state restriction; kitchen sanitation required
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Colorado cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales only (no wholesale, no retail stores). Products may be sold at farmers markets, r...	Direct sales at residence, farmers markets, roadside stands, events, online with in-state delivery; no interstate shipping; no sales to res...	Direct sales at residence, farmers markets, roadside stands, events, online with in-state delivery only; no sales to restaurants or grocery...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Colorado state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) requires production in the home kitchen. Free CDPHE registration required. Food handler course (e.g....	Non-TCS non-refrigerated foods only; food safety course completion required; \$10,000 per-product annual cap; direct to consumer only (no re...	Non-TCS non-refrigerated foods only; food safety course required; \$10,000 per-product annual cap; direct to consumer only; labeling require...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored properly to prevent contamination per state guidance; no county-specific overlay beyond state standards.	Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods	Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods
POPULATION	359,363	331,466	328,658

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Larimer 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 Larimer 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/larimer-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 Larimer 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/larimer-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise