

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Brown County

Illinois · Mount Sterling · FIPS 17009 · Population 6,618 ·
Crosodo Index #1717*

STATE BASELINE

410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

Brown County, Illinois — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

**No specific state statute on pets;
good manufacturing practices apply.**

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Illinois 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
- ☐ Illinois home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Illinois label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

ILLINOIS: BROWN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1717* · FIPS 17009 · Mount Sterling

Brown County

Population 6,618 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4) ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must operate from primary residence. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Illinois uses a prohibited-list approach - virtually all non-prohibited foods allowed including pickles, salsas, condiments, and most baked goods. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online sales within Illinois permitted for non-perishables.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state statute on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Brown County is a small, rural western Illinois county (pop. ~6,600). No specific Brown County home occupation zoning ordinance was found in research. Illinois state law generally preempts contradictory local restrictions on cottage food sales. Operators should register with the Brown County Health Department and confirm whether any county zoning permits are required for home-based food businesses in unincorporated areas or within Mount Sterling city limits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (IDPH or local health department may inspect upon complaint. Routine inspections not required for registered cottage food operators.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must operate from primary residence. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Illinois uses a prohibited-list approach - virtually all non-prohibited foods allowed including pickles, salsas, condiments, and most baked goods. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online sales within Illinois permitted for non-perishables.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state statute on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no additional testing specified for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required per food handler certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe food handling practices required per CFPM training.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — IDPH or local health department may inspect upon complaint. Routine inspections not required for registered cottage food operators.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Brown County is a small, rural western Illinois county (pop. ~6,600). No specific Brown County home occupation zoning ordinance was found in research. Illinois state law generally preempts contradictory local restrictions on cottage food sales. Operators should register with the Brown County Health Department and confirm whether any county zoning permits are required for home-based food businesses in unincorporated areas or within Mount Sterling city limits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Illinois cottage food allows direct sales; home pickup is permitted. Online sales with local delivery permitted for non-perishables. No out-of-state shipping.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law. Local zoning may restrict non-resident employees in home-based businesses.

Relevant county code

Brown County zoning regulations (unincorporated areas); contact Brown County for current text.

RESEARCH NOTES

Brown County is a small rural western Illinois county with limited online presence. No specific county zoning ordinance text for home occupations was found. Illinois cottage food law (410 ILCS 625/4) requires registration with local health department and CFPM certification. State law uses prohibited-list approach and generally preempts contradictory local restrictions. Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.browncounty.gov>

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Brown County	Cass County	Morgan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state statute on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Illinois cottage food allows direct sales; home pickup is permitted. Online sales with local delivery permitted for non-perishables. No out...	Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within l...	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	—
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	—
RESTRICTIONS	Must operate from primary residence. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification...	Must register with local health department (Cass County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Certi...	—
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe food handling practices required per CFPM training.	Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have addit...	—
POPULATION	6,618	12,955	32,882

State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

STATUTE

410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Illinois prohibits sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale; direct in-state sales are allowed anywhere including home, online, farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

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

Questions about Brown 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/illinois/brown-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 Brown County, Illinois. 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/illinois/brown-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