

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Clay County

Illinois · Louisville · FIPS 17025 · Population 12,821 · Crosodo Index #2019\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## 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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint**

PETS

**No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies**

### 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: CLAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2019\* · FIPS 17025 · Louisville

## Clay County

Population 12,821 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act) ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must register with local health department (Clay County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM-level) certification required for all persons who prepare or package food. Inspection is complaint-based only. Illinois uses a prohibited-list approach — virtually all non-prohibited foods allowed for direct in-state consumer sales.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Clay County local zoning ordinances may regulate home-based business activities (parking, signage, customer traffic). Illinois state cottage food law preempts local restrictions that are inconsistent with state law, but operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with the county zoning/planning office or municipality of residence.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Must register with local health department (Clay County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM-level) certification required for all persons who prepare or package food. Inspection is complaint-based only. Illinois uses a prohibited-list approach — virtually all non-prohibited foods allowed for direct in-state consumer sales.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

## WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; if on private well, annual coliform testing may be required

## HANDWASHING

Handwashing sink required in kitchen

## FOOD STORAGE

Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have additional requirements

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Clay County local zoning ordinances may regulate home-based business activities (parking, signage, customer traffic). Illinois state cottage food law preempts local restrictions that are inconsistent with state law, but operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with the county zoning/planning office or municipality of residence.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within Illinois. Out-of-state shipping prohibited. No third-party resale or distribution. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | No specific limit; all food preparers/packagegers must hold CFPM certification                                                                                                                                               |

**Relevant county code**

Contact Clay County Health Department for local registration requirements under 410 ILCS 625/4

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Illinois cottage food law (PA 102-0633 eff. Jan 1 2022; further amended PA 103-0903, 2025) is highly permissive with prohibited-list approach. Registration required with local health department (\$50/year cap). Food Safety Manager cert (CFPM) required — manager-level cert, not just food handler. All 43 counties in this batch are rural Illinois counties; state law strongly preempts contradictory local restrictions. Clay County in south-central IL; county seat Louisville. Rural agricultural county. No county-specific cottage food deviations found. Local zoning may still regulate home occupation aspects (parking, signage, customer counts) consistent with state preemption. University of Illinois Extension and Illinois Stewardship Alliance offer county-level guidance. Research confirmed no county-specific overrides for these counties; medium confidence as county health dept websites not individually scraped.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.claycounty.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/clay-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/clay-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Clay County                                                                                                                                     | Effingham County                                                                                                                                | Fayette County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies                                                                              | No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies                                                                              | No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies                                                                              |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within l...  | Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within l...  | 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     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Must register with local health department (Clay County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Certi... | Must register with local health department (Effingham County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. ... | Must register with local health department (Fayette County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Ce... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have addit...  | Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have addit...  | Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have addit...  |
| POPULATION                 | 13,248                                                                                                                                          | 34,594                                                                                                                                          | 21,464                                                                                                                                          |

## State context — Illinois cottage food law

Clay 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.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STATUTE</b><br>410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b><br>—                      |
| <b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b><br>Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b><br>Yes (specific course) |
| <b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b><br>Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b><br>Yes                   |
| <b>INDIRECT SALES</b><br>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](https://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 Clay 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/clay-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/clay-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Clay County, Illinois. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/clay-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/clay-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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