

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

DeKalb County

Illinois · Sycamore · FIPS 17037 · Population 100,686 ·
Crosodo Index #1229*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

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

DeKalb 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?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation 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: DEKALB COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1229* · FIPS 17037 · Sycamore

DeKalb County

Population 100,686 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)

• MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Illinois 'prohibited list' approach: operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Direct in-state sales only. Acidified/fermented foods require additional documentation.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Sycamore and other municipalities in DeKalb County (including DeKalb city, home to Northern Illinois University) may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific DeKalb County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-triggered. DeKalb County Health Department administers registration.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Illinois 'prohibited list' approach: operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Direct in-state sales only. Acidified/fermented foods require additional documentation.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per CFPM certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-prohibited foods only. Meat/poultry/fish/seafood, custard/cream pies with hazardous fillings, garlic in oil (unless acidified), low-acid canned foods, sprouts, raw cut leafy greens, alcoholic beverages, kombucha prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-triggered. DeKalb County Health Department administers registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Sycamore and other municipalities in DeKalb County (including DeKalb city, home to Northern Illinois University) may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific DeKalb County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct in-state sales. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific DeKalb County code section identified. State law governs: 410 ILCS 625/4.

RESEARCH NOTES

DeKalb County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. DeKalb County is in the Chicago exurban area with NIU in DeKalb city. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dekalbcounty.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	DeKalb County	LaSalle County	Kendall County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation applies.	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation practices apply.	Not specifically prohibited; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct in-state sales. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.	Direct in-state sales permitted. Online sales allowed for non-perishable items within Illinois. Out-of-state shipping prohibited. Home pick...	Direct sales statewide. Online sales allowed for non-perishable items shipped within Illinois only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Illinois 'prohibited list' approach: operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Registration with local health departm...	Illinois uses a 'prohibited list' approach — operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Must register with the local h...	Must register with local health department (Kendall County Health Department) up to \$50/year. Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-prohibited foods only. Meat/poultry/fish/seafood, custard/cream pies with hazardous fillings, garlic in oil (unless acidified), low-aci...	Non-prohibited foods only. Acidified/fermented foods require food safety plan and pH test documentation.	Shelf-stable non-perishable products required for shipped items. Many categories allowed for direct in-state sales. Stored in sealed food-s...
POPULATION	100,686	109,495	132,795

State context — Illinois cottage food law

DeKalb 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 DeKalb 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/dekalb-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 DeKalb 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/dekalb-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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