

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Knox County

Illinois · Galesburg · FIPS 17095 · Population 49,751 · Crosodo
Index #1201*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
410 ILCS 625/4	Great	—	MEDIUM	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

Knox 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

Not specified in state cottage food law.

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: KNOX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1201* · FIPS 17095 · Galesburg

Knox County

Population 49,751 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Registration with Knox County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Acidified and fermented foods require special documentation (food safety plan and pH test).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Knox County and City of Galesburg may have home occupation zoning requirements. Recommend verifying with Knox County Planning/Zoning and City of Galesburg planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections may occur upon complaint. Knox County Health Department administers registration.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Registration with Knox County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Acidified and fermented foods require special documentation (food safety plan and pH test).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required through CFPM certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS for direct sales; perishable items may not be shipped.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections may occur upon complaint. Knox County Health Department administers registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Knox County and City of Galesburg may have home occupation zoning requirements. Recommend verifying with Knox County Planning/Zoning and City of Galesburg planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales from home, online, events, and farmers markets within Illinois. Non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

410 ILCS 625/4; Knox County zoning code

RESEARCH NOTES

Illinois has a highly permissive cottage food law. Registration with Knox County Health Department required. Knox County includes Galesburg (home of Carl Sandburg birthplace). No Knox County-specific cottage food ordinances found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.knoxcounty.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/knox-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Knox County	Henry County	Peoria County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No explicit state restriction; CFPM certification training addresses food safety practices.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales from home, online, events, and farmers markets within Illinois. Non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois...	Direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.	Direct sales statewide allowed. Online sales with in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited. Farmers markets, home, and...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM...	Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM...	Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Direct sales ...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS for direct sales; perishable items may not be shipped.	Products must be non-TCS for direct sales.	Shelf-stable storage; perishables not permitted except where explicitly allowed.
POPULATION	49,751	49,157	181,186

State context — Illinois cottage food law

Knox 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 Knox 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/knox-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 Knox 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/knox-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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