

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

Illinois · Waukegan · FIPS 17097 · Population 713,159 ·
Crosodo Index #1235*

STATE BASELINE

410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act; 2022 amendment PA 102-0633)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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

Lake 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

State baseline 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: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1235* · FIPS 17097 · Waukegan

Lake County

Population 713,159 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act; 2022 amendment PA 102-0633) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Some local health departments may impose additional requirements per §410 ILCS 625/4(d).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lake County is largely incorporated (Waukegan, North Chicago, Gurnee, Libertyville, Vernon Hills, etc.) with separate municipal home occupation permit rules. Contact relevant municipality's planning department. Lake County Planning, Building & Development governs unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Lake County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Some local health departments may impose additional requirements per §410 ILCS 625/4(d).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Food Safety Manager certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; perishables may be sold directly but not shipped

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Lake County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lake County is largely incorporated (Waukegan, North Chicago, Gurnee, Libertyville, Vernon Hills, etc.) with separate municipal home occupation permit rules. Contact relevant municipality's planning department. Lake County Planning, Building & Development governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer statewide. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. No out-of-state shipping. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

410 ILCS 625/4; Lake County Health Department registration; municipal home occupation codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

Lake County IL follows Illinois state baseline. Registration with the Lake County Health Department required. CFPM certification required under state law. No Lake County-specific modification of state cottage food rules found. The county is largely suburban Chicago with many incorporated municipalities.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/health>

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/planning>

<https://www.lakecountyil.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/lake-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lake County	Cook County	McHenry County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer statewide. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. No out-of-state shipping. No wholesale.	State law allows direct-to-consumer sales. CCDPH registration limits sales to direct consumer channels; retail walk-in customers to home ar...	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, home sales, online with direct delivery permitted; no retail/wholesale
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies by city	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-...	In unincorporated Cook County, operators register with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Chicago residents must register...	Non-TCS foods (prohibited list approach); ANAB-accredited food handler cert required; direct to consumer only; no retail sales to restauran...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; perishables may be sold directly but not shipped	State baseline applies	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	713,159	5,225,367	311,133

State context — Illinois cottage food law

Lake 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 Lake 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/lake-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 Lake 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/lake-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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