

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

McLean County

Illinois · Bloomington · FIPS 17113 · Population 171,284 ·
Crosodo Index #1262*

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

McLean 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 explicit state restriction; CFPM certification training addresses food safety.

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: MCLEAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1262* · FIPS 17113 · Bloomington

McLean County

Population 171,284 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4) ·

MEDIUM

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

Yes (Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Direct sales only within Illinois. Most non-TCS foods allowed. Special documentation required for acidified/fermented foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; CFPM certification training addresses food safety.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (McLean County may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. Registration with McLean County Health Department required for cottage food operations. County URLs were blank in input. Bloomington and Normal have separate municipal rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (McLean County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. Local health departments may impose additional requirements per §410 ILCS 625/4(d).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Direct sales only within Illinois. Most non-TCS foods allowed. Special documentation required for acidified/fermented foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; CFPM certification training addresses food safety.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per CFPM standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; perishables not permitted except where explicitly allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — McLean County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. Local health departments may impose additional requirements per §410 ILCS 625/4(d).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — McLean County may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. Registration with McLean County Health Department required for cottage food operations. County URLs were blank in input. Bloomington and Normal have separate municipal rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales statewide. Online sales with in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

410 ILCS 625/4; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

McLean County (Bloomington-Normal area) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond Illinois state baseline. McLean County Health Department administers cottage food registrations for unincorporated areas.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mcleancounty.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/mclean-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	McLean County	Champaign County	Tazewell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; CFPM certification training addresses food safety.	No explicit state-level pet restriction in Illinois cottage food statute. GMP practices apply.	Not specifically prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.
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 statewide. Online sales with in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Illinois cottage food law permits direct in-state sales at farmers markets, events, from home, and online (non-perishable items only via sh...	Direct sales statewide. Online sales for non-perishable items within Illinois only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Direct sales ...	Illinois cottage food law (410 ILCS 625/4, 2022 PA 102-0633 and 2025 PA 103-0903) uses a prohibited-list approach — operators can sell almo...	Must register with local health department (Tazewell County Health Department) up to \$50/year. Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level)...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; perishables not permitted except where explicitly allowed.	All non-prohibited foods meeting standard GMP storage requirements. Acidified and fermented foods require a food safety plan and pH testing...	Shelf-stable non-perishable products for shipped items. Broader categories allowed for direct in-state sales. Stored in sealed food-safe co...
POPULATION	171,284	206,525	131,276

State context — Illinois cottage food law

McLean 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 McLean 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/mclean-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 McLean 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/mclean-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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