

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Stephenson County

Illinois · Freeport · FIPS 17177 · Population 43,088 · Crosodo  
Index #2927\*

| STATE BASELINE | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| —              | Great      | —                        | MEDIUM     |               |

**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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION

—

PETS

—

### 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: STEPHENSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2927\* · FIPS 17177 · Freeport

# Stephenson County

Population 43,088 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

**Home kitchen rules**

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED  
KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

**Inspection & permitting**

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION  
PERMIT —

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

**Customer-facing rules**ON-SITE CUSTOMER  
PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found that overrides state law. Illinois 410 ILCS 625/4 preempts local rules inconsistent with state law (2022 PA 102-0633 and 2025 PA 103-0903 amendments). Local zoning may regulate signage, customer traffic, and parking at home sales locations but cannot prohibit or restrict allowed foods/venues inconsistently with state law. Registration required with local county health department (up to \$50/year); CFPM-level food safety certificate required. No sales cap. Defaulting to state baseline.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.stephensoncounty.gov>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/illinois/stephenson-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/stephenson-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Stephenson County | Carroll County                                                                                                                                  | Jo Daviess County                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | —                 | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | —                 | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | —                 | No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies                                                                              | No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies                                                                              |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | —                 | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | —                 | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | —                 | 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...  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | —                 | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | —                 | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | —                 | Must register with local health department (Carroll County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Ce... | Must register with local health department (Jo Daviess County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year.... |
| 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...  |
| POPULATION                 | 44,482            | 15,594                                                                                                                                          | 21,942                                                                                                                                          |

## State context — Illinois cottage food law

Stephenson 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 Stephenson 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/stephenson-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/stephenson-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 Stephenson 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/stephenson-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/stephenson-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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