

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hancock County

Indiana · Greenfield · FIPS 18059 · Population 80,170 ·
Crosodo Index #1221*

STATE BASELINE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.3

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

Hancock County, Indiana — 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 statute; good hygienic practices required.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Indiana 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
- ☐ Indiana home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Indiana label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

INDIANA: HANCOCK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1221* · FIPS 18059 · Greenfield

Hancock County

Population 80,170 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.3 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must prepare food in the individual's primary residential home kitchen. Only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods allowed. Whole eggs, traditional pickles (not oxygen-sealed), and whole chickens/rabbits raised by the vendor also allowed with restrictions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; good hygienic practices required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law (IC 16-42-5.3 Sec. 12) expressly prohibits local governments from requiring licensure, certification, or inspection of home-based vendor foods. However, local zoning ordinances for home-based businesses may still apply. Hancock County zoning should be verified directly with the county for any home occupation requirements unrelated to food safety.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State statute expressly prohibits local governments from requiring inspection; state department may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must prepare food in the individual's primary residential home kitchen. Only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods allowed. Whole eggs, traditional pickles (not oxygen-sealed), and whole chickens/rabbits raised by the vendor also allowed with restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; good hygienic practices required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; public water supply typical for residential use.
HANDWASHING	Proper handwashing required per IC 16-42-5.3 sanitary procedures.
FOOD STORAGE	Must use proper sanitary procedures; containers and packaging must be sanitized.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State statute expressly prohibits local governments from requiring inspection; state department may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State law (IC 16-42-5.3 Sec. 12) expressly prohibits local governments from requiring licensure, certification, or inspection of home-based vendor foods. However, local zoning ordinances for home-based businesses may still apply. Hancock County zoning should be verified directly with the county for any home occupation requirements unrelated to food safety.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Products may be sold in-person, online, shipped within Indiana, and delivered to the end consumer. No sales to warehouses, retail food establishments, or wholesalers. All sales must be direct to the end consumer.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Operation must be conducted by the home-based vendor; no employee restrictions specified in the state cottage food statute, but state law limits to the individual vendor's primary residence.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found; state law preempts local food safety regulation of HBVs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted 2022 HEA 1149) explicitly preempts local governments from requiring licensure or inspection of home-based vendors (HBVs). The Indiana HBV Handbook 2025 confirms that local zoning ordinances unrelated to food safety may still apply; vendors are encouraged to contact their local municipality to verify zoning. Hancock County Health Department administers the required ANSI-accredited food handler certificate. No county-specific cottage food overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no specific county ordinance found).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hancockcounty.gov>

[https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-\(cottage-foods\)/](https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-(cottage-foods)/)

<https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/files/Indiana-Home-Based-Vendor-Handbook-2.pdf>

<https://www.hancockin.gov/224/Food-Establishment-Permit-Application>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hancock County	Madison County	Hamilton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; good hygienic practices required.	Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.	Good sanitation practices required; no specific state pet rule but kitchen cleanliness standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Products may be sold in-person, online, shipped within Indiana, and delivered to the end consumer. No sales to warehouses, retail food esta...	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and other venues per 2022 expanded state law.	In-person, telephone, internet sales allowed; delivery in-person, by mail, or third-party carrier within Indiana only; not for resale
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must prepare food in the individual's primary residential home kitchen. Only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods allowe...	Non-potentially hazardous foods produced at the individual's primary residence. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) must be provided...	Food prepared at producer's primary residence only; non-TCS foods only; ANAB-accredited food handler certificate required; label must state...
FOOD STORAGE	Must use proper sanitary procedures; containers and packaging must be sanitized.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Stored in food-safe containers.	Stored in sanitary conditions at residence
POPULATION	80,170	130,545	349,527

State context — Indiana cottage food law

Hancock County's rules sit on top of Indiana's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2

ANNUAL SALES CAP

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale are prohibited; producers may sell at events, farmers markets, home, online, and roadside stands only.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Indiana cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/indiana.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://iga.in.gov/laws/2022/ic/titles/016/articles/042/chapters/005.2>

State dept cottage food page: [https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-\(cottage-foods\)/](https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-(cottage-foods)/)

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/indiana/>

Questions about Hancock 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/indiana/hancock-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 Hancock County, Indiana. 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/indiana/hancock-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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