

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

Indiana · Crown Point · FIPS 18089 · Population 497,682 ·
Crosodo Index #1265*

STATE BASELINE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2

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

Lake 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

No specific state cottage food pet restriction

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: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1265* · FIPS 18089 · Crown Point

Lake County

Population 497,682 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. No registration required. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be provided to local health department. Direct sales only within Indiana. Perishable baked goods, acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies are prohibited.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Indiana 2022 HEA 1149 preempts local governments from imposing licensing or inspection requirements beyond state law for home-based vendor operations. However, general zoning/home occupation permits may still apply. Lake County and its cities (Gary, Hammond, Merrillville, Crown Point, etc.) may have home occupation zoning provisions. Operators should check with local municipality for any zoning-related home occupation permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No pre-operational inspection; Indiana state law (2022 HEA 1149) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. No registration required. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be provided to local health department. Direct sales only within Indiana. Perishable baked goods, acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies are prohibited.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law

HANDWASHING

Implied by food handler certification requirement

FOOD STORAGE

Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — No pre-operational inspection; Indiana state law (2022 HEA 1149) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Indiana 2022 HEA 1149 preempts local governments from imposing licensing or inspection requirements beyond state law for home-based vendor operations. However, general zoning/home occupation permits may still apply. Lake County and its cities (Gary, Hammond, Merrillville, Crown Point, etc.) may have home occupation zoning provisions. Operators should check with local municipality for any zoning-related home occupation permit requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only within Indiana: home, farmers markets, events, online. No annual sales cap. No wholesale to stores or restaurants.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law

Relevant county code

Ind. Code §16-42-5.3 (HEA 1149, 2022 — operative provision; §16-42-5.2 is prior law). Local: Lake County/city zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Indiana is a Great-tier state. 2022 HEA 1149 (Ind. Code §16-42-5.3) is the operative provision (the input cites §16-42-5.2 which is prior law). State preempts local licensing/inspection requirements but not general home occupation zoning. Food handler certificate required. No sales cap. Lake County is in northwest Indiana (Chicago metro area). Local municipality home occupation zoning requirements not confirmed from direct source. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lakecountyin.org>

[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://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/indiana/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lake County	Porter County	Jasper County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	Not specified in state statute; proper sanitary procedures and good hygienic practices 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 to consumers only within Indiana: home, farmers markets, events, online. No annual sales cap. No wholesale to stores or restau...	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, online with in-state delivery. No sales cap.	Products may be sold in-person, by telephone, or via the internet, and delivered to the end consumer in person, by mail, or by third-party ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. No registration required. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be p...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale or interstate sales. Food handler certification (ANSI-accredited) req...	Must prepare food in the individual's primary residential home kitchen (or permanent structure on the same property). Only non-TCS (non-tim...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods	Shelf-stable storage for non-PHF products.	Must use proper sanitary procedures; containers and packaging must be sanitized before use.
POPULATION	497,682	173,355	33,478

State context — Indiana cottage food law

Lake 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

—

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 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/indiana/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, 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/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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise