

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Linn County

Iowa · Cedar Rapids · FIPS 19113 · Population 229,308 ·
Crosodo Index #268*

STATE BASELINE

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

STATE TIER

Good

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

Linn County, Iowa — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Iowa label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

IOWA: LINN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #268* · FIPS 19113 · Cedar Rapids

Linn County

Population 229,308 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direct sales only. State law preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). No registration required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food in Linn County.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; local government explicitly prohibited from adding restrictions (§137F.20(1)))

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direct sales only. State law preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). No registration required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods including acidified foods if pH tested ($\text{pH} \leq 4.6$) or water activity tested ($a_w \leq 0.85$) with production date on label

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; local government explicitly prohibited from adding restrictions (§137F.20(1))
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food in Linn County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pathway allows broader sales including some retail.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); preempts local ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Linn County IA follows Iowa state baseline. Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20) expressly preempts local regulation — no local licensing or inspection can be required. Cedar Rapids is Iowa's second-largest city. No local cottage food permit required. State law confirmed. No specific Linn County .gov cottage food source retrieved. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.linncountyiowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Linn County	Johnson County	Benton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food exemption.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pat...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under exemption. From home, at farmers markets, events, roadside stands. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail ...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direc...	Iowa has two pathways: (1) cottage food exemption under §137F.20 — no license, no cap, direct sales only, most non-TCS foods including pH-t...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods including acidified foods if pH tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label	Non-TCS foods only under exemption. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch pH-tested (≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤...	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.
POPULATION	229,308	153,360	25,645

State context — Iowa cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
Limited (see notes) — Cottage food direct-to-consumer sales only; however, a separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license allows indirect retail and wholesale sales of almost any food including perishables.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

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

Questions about Linn 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/iowa/linn-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 Linn County, Iowa. 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/iowa/linn-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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