

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Lucas County

Iowa · Chariton · FIPS 19117 · Population 8,758 · Crosodo Index #269\*

## STATE BASELINE

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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

Lucas 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

**No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.**

### 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: LUCAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #269\* · FIPS 19117 · Chariton

## Lucas County

Population 8,758 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Lucas County.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** Yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** No

**PET RESTRICTIONS** No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.

**WATER SUPPLY** No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.

**HANDWASHING** No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.

**FOOD STORAGE** Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** No — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** No — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Lucas County.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** No

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Relevant county code**

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Lucas County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.lucascounty.gov>

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<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/lucas-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/iowa/lucas-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Lucas County                                                                                                                                   | Appanoose County                                                                                                                               | Clarke County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.                                                                                          | No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.                                                 | 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 under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to c... | Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa... | 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                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private re... | No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake... | 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 (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-te... | Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.                       | Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.                       |
| POPULATION                 | 8,666                                                                                                                                          | 12,523                                                                                                                                         | 9,395                                                                                                                                          |

## State context — Iowa cottage food law

Lucas 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](https://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 Lucas 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/lucas-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/iowa/lucas-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 Lucas County, Iowa. 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/iowa/lucas-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/iowa/lucas-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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