

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Pottawattamie County

Iowa · Council Bluffs · FIPS 19155 · Population 93,543 ·
Crosodo Index #223*

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

Pottawattamie 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 restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.

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: POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #223* · FIPS 19155 · Council Bluffs

Pottawattamie County

Population 93,543 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. State expressly prohibits local government from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1). Pottawattamie County is part of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Iowa §137F.20(1) preempts local restrictions. Council Bluffs may have business license requirements unrelated to cottage food; operators should verify.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. State expressly prohibits local government from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1). Pottawattamie County is part of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be batch pH-tested.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

No — Iowa §137F.20(1) preempts local restrictions. Council Bluffs may have business license requirements unrelated to cottage food; operators should verify.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Direct sales only to end consumers. Home, farmers markets, events. No indirect retail/wholesale under cottage food exemption.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

No specific limit.

Relevant county code

No Pottawattamie County-specific cottage food code; state preemption applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Pottawattamie County-specific cottage food rules found. Iowa state preemption is strong. Pottawattamie County (Council Bluffs) is part of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area; Council Bluffs may have business license requirements. Iowa DIAL reorganized from Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals in 2023.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.pottawattamiecounty.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/pottawattamie-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Pottawattamie County	Cass County	Harrison County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.	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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only to end consumers. Home, farmers markets, events. No indirect retail/wholesale under cottage food exemption.	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 exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed...	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 shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be batch pH-tested.	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	93,543	13,193	14,049

State context — Iowa cottage food law

Pottawattamie 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 Pottawattamie 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/pottawattamie-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 Pottawattamie 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/pottawattamie-county-discuss

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