

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Scott County

Iowa · Davenport · FIPS 19163 · Population 174,315 · Crosodo
Index #752*

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

Scott County, Iowa — 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

No

PETS

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

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: SCOTT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #752* · FIPS 19163 · Davenport

Scott County

Population 174,315 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No license, no cap, direct sales only for cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway available for perishables and broader distribution. Local governments expressly prohibited from adding restrictions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. Scott County may have home occupation zoning requirements for home-based businesses but cannot impose food safety regulations. Scott County government website confirmed at scottcountyiowa.gov.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections under cottage food exemption. State DIAL may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No license, no cap, direct sales only for cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway available for perishables and broader distribution. Local governments expressly prohibited from adding restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS products; pH-tested acidified foods must include production date on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections under cottage food exemption. State DIAL may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. Scott County may have home occupation zoning requirements for home-based businesses but cannot impose food safety regulations. Scott County government website confirmed at scottcountyiowa.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and other direct venues. No sales cap. No interstate sales under cottage exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified; household operation implied.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20; no specific county cottage food code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa statute expressly prohibits local restrictions on cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). Scott County government website confirmed. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline. Iowa Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) is the state regulatory body (reorganized 2023). pH-tested acidified foods allowed under cottage food exemption is notable — more permissive than many states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.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/scott-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Scott County	Cedar County	Clinton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	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 from home, farmers markets, and other direct venues. No sales cap. No interstate sales under cottage 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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	No license, no cap, direct sales only for cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods...	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	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS products; pH-tested acidified foods must include production date on label.	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	174,315	18,627	46,429

State context — iowa cottage food law

Scott 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

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

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 Scott 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/scott-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 Scott 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/scott-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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