

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Warren County

Iowa · Indianola · FIPS 19181 · Population 52,709 · Crosodo Index #1668*

STATE BASELINE

Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); §137F.8B (HFPE pathway)

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific IA state or Warren County restriction.

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: WARREN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1668* · FIPS 19181 · Indianola

Warren County

Population 52,709 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); §137F.8B (HFPE pathway) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Cottage food exemption: no license, no cap, direct sales only. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods (pH 4.6 or below or water activity 0.85 or below) with production date on label. Separate HFPE registration allows broader foods including some TCS items and indirect retail sales.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific IA state or Warren County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Warren County is a suburban/exurban county south of Des Moines (Indianola). Growing population near metro area. No specific Warren County cottage food zoning ordinance identified. Contact Warren County government in Indianola for home occupation requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Iowa DIAL may investigate on complaint or foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Cottage food exemption: no license, no cap, direct sales only. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods (pH 4.6 or below or water activity 0.85 or below) with production date on label. Separate HFPE registration allows broader foods including some TCS items and indirect retail sales.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific IA state or Warren County restriction.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under cottage food exemption.

HANDWASHING

No formal requirement under cottage food exemption.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods primarily. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with testing. Perishable TCS foods require HFPE registration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Iowa DIAL may investigate on complaint or foodborne illness.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Warren County is a suburban/exurban county south of Des Moines (Indianola). Growing population near metro area. No specific Warren County cottage food zoning ordinance identified. Contact Warren County government in Indianola for home occupation requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under cottage food exemption: direct to consumer only. Under HFPE: indirect retail sales also permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in IA statute.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20; no Warren County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Warren County is a growing suburban county south of Des Moines; Indianola is home to the National Balloon Classic. No county-specific cottage food rules found. Iowa has two distinct pathways: (1) cottage food exemption under §137F.20 with no license or cap; (2) HFPE registration for broader foods. Iowa renamed its agency to DIAL (Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) in 2023.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.warrencounty.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/warren-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Warren County	Dallas County	Polk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific IA state or Warren County restriction.	No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under cottage food exemption: direct to consumer only. Under HFPE: indirect retail sales also permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only under cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect re...	Direct sales only within Iowa. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, events. No retail/restaurant wholesale under the \$13...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	Cottage food exemption: no license, no cap, direct sales only. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods (pH 4.6 or be...	Iowa's cottage food exemption (\$137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, incl...	Non-TCS foods (\$137F.20 exemption), no license, no cap, direct sales only. Acidified foods allowed if each batch pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or wat...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods primarily. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with testing. Perishable TCS foods require HFPE registration.	Non-TCS foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed with pH test (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85) and production date on label. Perishable bake...	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods
POPULATION	52,709	100,367	493,378

State context — Iowa cottage food law

Warren 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

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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 Warren 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/warren-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 Warren 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/warren-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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