

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Woodbury County

Iowa · Sioux City · FIPS 19193 · Population 105,526 · Crosodo
Index #733*

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

Woodbury 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 specific state restriction for 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: WOODBURY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #733* · FIPS 19193 · Sioux City

Woodbury County

Population 105,526 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, including pH-tested acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85 with production date on label). No food handler certification required. A separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway allows broader foods including perishables with registration.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Sioux City and Woodbury County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions to cottage food operations. However, local zoning/home occupation rules may apply for the business operation aspect.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections for cottage food exemption. HFPE pathway has separate inspection requirements.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, including pH-tested acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85 with production date on label). No food handler certification required. A separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway allows broader foods including perishables with registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed if pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label. Perishable baked goods, low-acid untested canned foods, juices, and meat jerkins prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections for cottage food exemption. HFPE pathway has separate inspection requirements.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Sioux City and Woodbury County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions to cottage food operations. However, local zoning/home occupation rules may apply for the business operation aspect.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Woodbury County code section identified. State law governs: Iowa Code §137F.20.

RESEARCH NOTES

Woodbury County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Iowa's cottage food exemption prohibits local government from restricting production. Sioux City is Woodbury County's largest city. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.woodburycounty.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/woodbury-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Woodbury County	Cherokee County	Crawford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction for 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-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect...	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	Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, incl...	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 foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed if pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label. Pe...	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	105,526	11,227	17,426

State context — Iowa cottage food law

Woodbury 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 Woodbury 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/woodbury-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 Woodbury 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/woodbury-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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