

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bay County

Michigan · Bay City · FIPS 26017 · Population 103,752 ·
Crosodo Index #470*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MCL §289.4102	Great	50000	MEDIUM	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

Bay County, Michigan — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Michigan 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
- ☐ Michigan home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Michigan label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MICHIGAN: BAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #470* · FIPS 26017 · Bay City

Bay County

Population 103,752 · State baseline: MCL \$289,4102 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). No registration, no inspection, no training required. Direct-to-consumer only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). Face-to-face or virtual interaction required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Bay City and other municipalities in Bay County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Bay County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. Exempt from MDARD licensing.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). No registration, no inspection, no training required. Direct-to-consumer only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). Face-to-face or virtual interaction required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing practices required.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, fruit butters, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, carbonated drinks, kombucha, pet food prohibited. Only two specified buttercream frosting recipes permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspections. Exempt from MDARD licensing.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Bay City and other municipalities in Bay County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Bay County cottage food ordinance identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consignment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Bay County code section identified. State law governs: MCL §289.4102.

RESEARCH NOTES

Bay County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Bay County is in the Great Lakes Bay Region. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baycounty.gov>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/michigan/bay-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bay County	Midland County	Saginaw County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	MDARD guidance recommends excluding pets during production; complaint investigations may examine kitchen conditions.	No explicit state pet restriction for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices apply; pets should not be in food prep areas during pr...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consignment.	Direct sales at farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands, from home, online, and via third-party delivery platforms (with direct consu...	Direct sales allowed at home, farmers markets, online orders with in-state delivery (virtual interaction required under 2025 amendment).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 20...	Same as all Michigan counties: primary domestic residence kitchen only, non-PHF foods only, \$50,000 annual cap (2025 amendment), direct sal...	Must use residential kitchen. Sales cap \$50,000/year (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). Direct sales only; no con...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, fruit butters, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketc...	Products must be stored at primary residence; prevent adulteration from insects, chemicals, water damage, insanitary conditions.	Store products in clean, pest-free area separate from non-food items.
POPULATION	103,752	83,503	189,821

State context — Michigan cottage food law

Bay County's rules sit on top of Michigan's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

MCL §289.4102

ANNUAL SALES CAP

50000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are prohibited. Online sales, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales (e.g., DoorDash) are allowed in-state only, but require the producer to offer the customer an opportunity to directly interact (face-to-face or virtually) before purchase. A separate \$75,000 cap applies if all products are priced at \$250 or more per item. Honey and maple syrup have a separate exemption permitting indirect retail sales up to \$15,000/year.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Michigan cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/michigan.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/michigan/>

Questions about Bay 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/michigan/bay-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 Bay County, Michigan. 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/michigan/bay-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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