

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Berrien County

Michigan · Saint Joseph · FIPS 26021 · Population 153,938 ·
Crosodo Index #973*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

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: BERRIEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #973* · FIPS 26021 · Saint Joseph

Berrien County

Population 153,938 · State baseline: MCL \$289,4102 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 amendment, effective March 2026). Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online and mail-order with virtual or face-to-face interaction now permitted (2025 amendment). Allowed foods include non-PHF items: baked goods, candies, condiments, dry goods, preserves, snacks. Only two specific buttercream frosting recipes permitted.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Berrien County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement by MDARD.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 amendment, effective March 2026). Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online and mail-order with virtual or face-to-face interaction now permitted (2025 amendment). Allowed foods include non-PHF items: baked goods, candies, condiments, dry goods, preserves, snacks. Only two specific buttercream frosting recipes permitted.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under Michigan cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

Good manufacturing practices apply.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF products only; no fermented/acidified foods, pickles, fruit butters. Proper storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement by MDARD.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Berrien County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No consignment or wholesale. Online and third-party delivery platform sales now allowed with interaction requirement per 2025 amendment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Berrien County Zoning Ordinance; MCL §289.4102

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Michigan HB 4122 (2025) raised cap to \$50,000 and added online/delivery platform sales. No Berrien County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.berriencounty.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/berrien-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Berrien County	Van Buren County	Cass County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state cottage food law.
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. No consignment or wholesale. Online and third-party delivery platform sales now allowed with interaction req...	Direct sales with face-to-face or virtual interaction required. Online and mail order now allowed (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consign...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales allowed per 2025 amendment (MCL §289.4102, effec...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 am...	Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in a home kitchen. \$50,000 annual sales cap (effective March 2026 per 2025 HB 4122). Direct sales ...	Must produce in home kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only (approved list). Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online/ mail order/third-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products only; no fermented/acidified foods, pickles, fruit butters. Proper storage required.	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored properly. Only two approved buttercream frosting recipes permitted.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous; proper storage implied.
POPULATION	153,938	75,636	51,604

State context — Michigan cottage food law

Berrien 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
MCL §289.4102	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	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 Berrien 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/berrien-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 Berrien 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/berrien-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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