

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Branch County

Michigan · Coldwater · FIPS 26023 · Population 43,648 ·  
Crosodo Index #1025\*

| STATE BASELINE | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| MCL §289.4102  | Great      | 50000                    | MEDIUM     | 2026-05-06    |

**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

Branch 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 prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during production.**

### 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: BRANCH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1025\* · FIPS 26023 · Coldwater

## Branch County

Population 43,648 · State baseline: MCL \$289,4102 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second homes, vacation homes, and motor homes do not qualify if not primary residence. Products must be stored at primary residence. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026).)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during production.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Michigan state law exempts cottage food operators from MDARD licensing and inspection but expressly requires operators to contact their local unit of government regarding local regulations. Branch County unincorporated areas governed by township zoning; City of Coldwater has its own ordinances. Operators should verify with local township or City of Coldwater zoning office.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection under Michigan cottage food law. MDARD may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second homes, vacation homes, and motor homes do not qualify if not primary residence. Products must be stored at primary residence. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during production.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required; no specific county-level additional requirement identified for cottage food operations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard handwashing required per good manufacturing practices; no state-mandated separate handwashing sink required for cottage food.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Inspection & permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No routine inspection under Michigan cottage food law. MDARD may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Michigan state law exempts cottage food operators from MDARD licensing and inspection but expressly requires operators to contact their local unit of government regarding local regulations. Branch County unincorporated areas governed by township zoning; City of Coldwater has its own ordinances. Operators should verify with local township or City of Coldwater zoning office. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order and third-party delivery platform sales allowed per 2025 HB 4122 amendment (effective March 2026) provided direct consumer interaction occurs before or during the transaction. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | No state limit specified; cottage food law assumes operator and household members only; non-household employees not addressed.                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Relevant county code

No county-level cottage food code section identified for Branch County. State: MCL §289.4102. Township and city zoning ordinances vary.

### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food rules found for Branch County. Rules reflect Michigan state baseline under MCL §289.4102. Branch County is a rural south-central Lower Peninsula county (pop. ~43,600) bordering Indiana. State law governs; no county health department cottage food override identified. Local township and city zoning for home occupations varies. 2025 HB 4122 raised annual sales cap to \$50,000 and authorized online/delivery sales effective March 2026.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.branchcounty.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/branch-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/branch-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Branch County                                                                                                                                  | Hillsdale County                                                                                                                               | Calhoun County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                              |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                               |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro... | No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro... | Not explicitly prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.                                                           |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                               |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                              |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                      |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order... | Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order... | Direct sales only. Sales from home, farmers markets, online (with face-to-face or virtual interaction), and third-party delivery platforms ...   |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                           |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                           |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho... | Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho... | Annual sales capped at \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025, effective March 2026; prior cap was \$25,000). No registration, permit, or inspecti... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.    | Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.    | Non-TCS products only (MCL §289.4102 approved list). Stored in food-safe containers. Only two specified buttercream frosting recipes permit...   |
| POPULATION                 | 43,648                                                                                                                                         | 45,829                                                                                                                                         | 134,011                                                                                                                                          |

## State context — Michigan cottage food law

Branch 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.

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|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 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.

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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](https://crosodo.com/states/michigan).

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### 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/>

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**Questions about Branch 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/branch-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/branch-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Branch County, Michigan. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/branch-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/branch-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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