

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Houston County

Minnesota · Caledonia · FIPS 27055 · Population 18,352 ·
Crosodo Index #1543*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	Great	78000	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

Houston County, Minnesota — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

78000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Minnesota label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

MINNESOTA: HOUSTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1543* · FIPS 27055 · Caledonia

Houston County

Population 18,352 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods from a home kitchen. Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year): free online training only. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year): paid training course and \$30 annual registration fee required. Direct sales, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods cannot be sold across state lines.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific cottage food permit identified. Houston County is the southeastern-most Minnesota county bordering Iowa and Wisconsin, with county seat Caledonia. Located in the scenic Driftless Area. Local townships may have home occupation zoning standards. Operators should contact Houston County planning or their local township.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Complaint-based investigation only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods from a home kitchen. Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year): free online training only. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year): paid training course and \$30 annual registration fee required. Direct sales, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods cannot be sold across state lines.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.

HANDWASHING

No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety training requirements.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Complaint-based investigation only.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No county-specific cottage food permit identified. Houston County is the southeastern-most Minnesota county bordering Iowa and Wisconsin, with county seat Caledonia. Located in the scenic Driftless Area. Local townships may have home occupation zoning standards. Operators should contact Houston County planning or their local township.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods may not be sold across state lines.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified; state MDA rules govern.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Houston County MN-specific cottage food zoning ordinance found. State MDA rules govern; local jurisdictions largely defer to state law. Defaulted to MN state baseline plus medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.houston.mn.us>

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A.152>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Houston County	Fillmore County	Winona County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	Not specified in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods may not be sold across state lines.	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods may not be sold across state lines.	Direct-to-consumer sales within Minnesota only. No indirect sales or retail. Home-canned goods sold in this category may not be sold outsid...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods ...	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods ...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual sales cap \$78,000 (2025 amendment, CPI-indexed). Tier 1 (~\$7,665/year): free registration trai...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	18,826	21,251	49,792

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	78000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales are limited to direct-to-consumer channels: community events, farmers markets, from the producer's home, online (in-state delivery by the producer personally or by mail/commercial delivery), and fundraising donations. Restaurants, retail stores, roadside stands, mail order wholesale, and catering are prohibited. All deliveries must be made by the producer personally unless shipped by mail or commercial delivery upon a prior online sale. Home-canned products in the pH/water-activity exemption category (Subd. 1(a)(2)) may not be sold outside of Minnesota.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A.152>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

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

Questions about Houston 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/minnesota/houston-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 Houston County, Minnesota. 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/minnesota/houston-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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