

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Watonwan County

Minnesota · Saint James · FIPS 27165 · Population 11,204 ·
Crosodo Index #2625*

STATE BASELINE

Minn. Stat. §28A.152

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

78000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

78000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

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: WATONWAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2625* · FIPS 27165 · Saint James

Watonwan County

Population 11,204 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free MDA Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year, CPI-indexed from July 2025) requires \$50 Cottage Food Producer Training Course renewed every 3 years plus \$30 annual registration fee. Allowed foods: non-potentially hazardous items. Local ordinances are not preempted; producers must verify Watonwan County and Saint James city zoning for home occupation rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Watonwan County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers should verify with Watonwan County and Saint James city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement possible by MDA.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free MDA Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year, CPI-indexed from July 2025) requires \$50 Cottage Food Producer Training Course renewed every 3 years plus \$30 annual registration fee. Allowed foods: non-potentially hazardous items. Local ordinances are not preempted; producers must verify Watonwan County and Saint James city zoning for home occupation rules.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under state cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF products only; proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement possible by MDA.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Watonwan County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers should verify with Watonwan County and Saint James city planning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers in person, at farmers markets, roadside stands, on-farm, community events, online (within MN only). No interstate sales for home-canned category. No third-party retail distribution.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Watonwan County Zoning Ordinance; Minn. Stat. §28A.152 Subd. 6

RESEARCH NOTES

Rural southwestern Minnesota county. State baseline governs; no Watonwan County-specific cottage food ordinance found. MDA administers registration. The 2025 amendment raised the cap to \$78,000 (CPI-indexed). Local zoning compliance required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/cottage-food-law-guidance>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Watonwan County	Brown County	Cottonwood County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers in person, at farmers markets, roadside stands, on-farm, community events, online (within MN only). No interstate...	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.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free MDA Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000...	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 ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products only; proper storage to prevent contamination required.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.
POPULATION	11,205	25,880	11,481

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

Watonwan 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 Watonwan 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/watonwan-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 Watonwan 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/watonwan-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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