

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Buffalo County

Nebraska · Kearney · FIPS 31019 · Population 50,103 ·
Crosodo Index #793*

STATE BASELINE

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

Buffalo County, Nebraska — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not specified in state cottage food law.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Nebraska label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

NEBRASKA: BUFFALO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #793* · FIPS 31019 · Kearney

Buffalo County

Population 50,103 · State baseline: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods plus certain TCS foods (as expanded by LB262, effective July 2024). Must register with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Food handler certification required. Direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, public events, home pickup, and delivery allowed. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Buffalo County (county seat Kearney) has a county government. Buffalo County website found in input (buffalocounty.ne.gov). City of Kearney may require local business license. No specific Buffalo County cottage food ordinances found in research. Recommend verifying with Buffalo County and City of Kearney planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine kitchen inspection. NDA may investigate on complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods plus certain TCS foods (as expanded by LB262, effective July 2024). Must register with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Food handler certification required. Direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, public events, home pickup, and delivery allowed. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required per food handler certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products required for standard cottage food. Some TCS foods permitted with LB262 expanded framework with additional handling requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine kitchen inspection. NDA may investigate on complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Buffalo County (county seat Kearney) has a county government. Buffalo County website found in input (buffalocounty.ne.gov). City of Kearney may require local business license. No specific Buffalo County cottage food ordinances found in research. Recommend verifying with Buffalo County and City of Kearney planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales at public events, home pickup, and delivery. No wholesale or retail distribution.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280; LB262 (2024); Buffalo County zoning code

RESEARCH NOTES

Nebraska expanded cottage food rules in 2024 (LB262) to allow some TCS foods with additional requirements. Food handler certification required. Buffalo County has county govt website in input. No Buffalo County-specific cottage food ordinances found in research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buffalocounty.ne.gov>

https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed_food/cottage_foods.html

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=81-2,280>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Buffalo County	Hall County	Adams County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales at public events, home pickup, and delivery. No wholesale or retail distribution.	Direct sales at public events, home pickup/delivery. No wholesale to restaurants/grocery stores under this framework.	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	—
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods plus certain TCS foods (as expanded by LB262, effective July 2024). Must register with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Fo...	Non-TCS foods from private home may be sold at farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, and other public events, via home pickup and...	—
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products required for standard cottage food. Some TCS foods permitted with LB262 expanded framework with additional handling requir...	Non-TCS foods primarily; some TCS foods allowed under LB262 with handling requirements. Prohibited: raw eggs, unpasteurized milk, raw sprou...	—
POPULATION	50,103	62,575	31,143

State context — Nebraska cottage food law

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

STATUTE Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280 (producer of food at private home); §81-2,239 et seq. (Nebraska Pure Food Act)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Sales must be direct-to-consumer. Wholesale to restaurants, grocery stores, or distributors is not permitted under the cottage food framework. Non-TCS foods may be mailed; TCS foods must be delivered in person by the producer within 2 hours.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Nebraska cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/nebraska.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=81-2,239.05>

State dept cottage food page: https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed_food/cottage_foods.html

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

Questions about Buffalo 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/nebraska/buffalo-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 Buffalo County, Nebraska. 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/nebraska/buffalo-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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