

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lancaster County

Nebraska · Lincoln · FIPS 31109 · Population 322,063 ·
Crosodo Index #1315*

STATE BASELINE

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280; registration required; food handler certificate required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

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: LANCASTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1315* · FIPS 31109 · Lincoln

Lancaster County

Population 322,063 · State baseline: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280; registration required; food handler certificate required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (NDA registration required; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer sales only (farmers markets, events, roadside stands); no TCS foods; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific home occupation permit identified. City of Lincoln may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Complaint-based investigation possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — NDA registration required; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer sales only (farmers markets, events, roadside stands); no TCS foods; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Proper handwashing required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No county-specific home occupation permit identified. City of Lincoln may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, fairs, festivals, roadside stands; no retail or wholesale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Lancaster County includes Lincoln, NE's capital city. NE requires registration and food handler cert. No county-specific cottage food rules found. Lincoln city may have home occupation rules.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lancaster County	Butler County	Cass County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required	Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, fairs, festivals, roadside stands; no retail or wholesale	Direct delivery to consumer permitted in-state; no wholesale to retailers	Direct delivery to consumer permitted in-state; no wholesale to retailers
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	NDA registration required; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer sales only (farmers markets, events, roadside stands); no ...	State law permits cottage food production from a private home kitchen. Registration required with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Direc...	State law permits cottage food production from a private home kitchen. Registration required with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Direc...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety
POPULATION	322,063	8,394	27,132

State context — Nebraska cottage food law

Lancaster 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 Lancaster 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/lanaster-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 Lancaster 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/lanaster-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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