

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Merrick County

Nebraska · Central City · FIPS 31121 · Population 7,837 ·
Crosodo Index #2972*

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

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION

—

PETS

—

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: MERRICK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2972* · FIPS 31121 · Central City

Merrick County

Population 7,837 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED
KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION
PERMIT —

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

Customer-facing rulesON-SITE CUSTOMER
PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME<https://www.merrickcounty.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Merrick County	Hamilton County	Howard County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	—	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	—	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	—	Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required	Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required
INSPECTION REQUIRED	—	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	—	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	—	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	—	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
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	—	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	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	—	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety
POPULATION	7,675	9,324	6,274

State context — Nebraska cottage food law

Merrick 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 Merrick 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/merrick-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 Merrick 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/merrick-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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