

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Eau Claire County

Wisconsin · Eau Claire · FIPS 55035 · Population 105,697 ·
Crosodo Index #291*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Wis. Stat. §97.29	Freedom	Tiered	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

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction for cottage food bakers.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Wisconsin label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

WISCONSIN: EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

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Eau Claire County

Population 105,697 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Wisconsin’s cottage food landscape is shaped by statute and case law: (1) Statute §97.29(2)(b)2 (‘Pickle Bill’): unlicensed home-canned pickles and acidified vegetables/fruits (pH 4.6 or lower) at community events or farmers markets, capped at \$5,000/year; (2) Kivirist court order (2017): home bakers of good character may sell shelf-stable, nonhazardous baked goods direct to consumer without a license; (3) 2024 Wisconsin Cottage Food Association v. DATCP ruling: Kivirist exception does NOT extend to unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy). No food handler certification required. No registration required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction for cottage food bakers.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Eau Claire County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. The City of Eau Claire and surrounding townships have their own zoning rules. No specific Eau Claire County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections for cottage food operations. DATCP enjoined from enforcing licensing requirements against qualifying home bakers under Kivirist order.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Wisconsin’s cottage food landscape is shaped by statute and case law: (1) Statute §97.29(2)(b)2 (‘Pickle Bill’): unlicensed home-canned pickles and acidified vegetables/fruits (pH 4.6 or lower) at community events or farmers markets, capped at \$5,000/year; (2) Kivirist court order (2017): home bakers of good character may sell shelf-stable, nonhazardous baked goods direct to consumer without a license; (3) 2024 Wisconsin Cottage Food Association v. DATCP ruling: Kivirist exception does NOT extend to unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy). No food handler certification required. No registration required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction for cottage food bakers.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Baked goods (Kivirist): shelf-stable, nonhazardous only. Pickles (Pickle Bill): pH 4.6 or lower, \$5,000/year cap at community events/farmers markets. Unbaked goods (candy, chocolate, fudge, etc.) remain subject to food processing plant licensing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections for cottage food operations. DATCP enjoined from enforcing licensing requirements against qualifying home bakers under Kivist order.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Eau Claire County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. The City of Eau Claire and surrounding townships have their own zoning rules. No specific Eau Claire County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Baked goods (Kivist): direct-to-consumer, low volume, any channel. Pickles (Pickle Bill): community events and farmers markets only, \$5,000/year cap. Unbaked goods require DATCP food processing plant license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute. Kivist order applies to 'home bakers of good character' — implies small personal operation.

Relevant county code

No specific Eau Claire County code section identified. State law governs: Wis. Stat. §97.29.

RESEARCH NOTES

Wisconsin tier is 'Freedom' per state baseline. Wisconsin's cottage food landscape is unusual — shaped by Kivist v. DATCP (2017) court order for baked goods and the 2024 Wisconsin Cottage Food Association v. DATCP ruling limiting Kivist to baked goods only. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.eauclairecountywi.gov>

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CottageFoodLaws.aspx

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/97/29>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Eau Claire County	Chippewa County	Buffalo County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction for cottage food bakers.	No specific state prohibition; best practice is to exclude pets during production	No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Baked goods (Kivist): direct-to-consumer, low volume, any channel. Pickles (Pickle Bill): community events and farmers markets only, \$5,0...	Direct sales to consumers only; no wholesale or internet sales for unlicensed operations. Home-canned goods limited to community events and...	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivist-covered baked goods. Pickle Bill allows farmers market and community event sales only (up to \$5,000/ye...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Wisconsin's cottage food landscape is shaped by statute and case law: (1) Statute §97.29(2)(b)2 ('Pickle Bill'): unlicensed home-canned pic...	Home bakers of non-potentially hazardous baked goods may sell directly to consumers without a license under the Kivist court order (2017)...	Wisconsin has a case-law-driven cottage food framework: (1) The statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acid...
FOOD STORAGE	Baked goods (Kivist): shelf-stable, nonhazardous only. Pickles (Pickle Bill): pH 4.6 or lower, \$5,000/year cap at community events/farmer...	Proper storage required; shelf-stable non-PHF foods only	Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.
POPULATION	105,697	66,254	13,587

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Wis. Stat. §97.29

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Home-canned goods must be sold at community or social events or farmers' markets in Wisconsin (§97.29(2)(b)2.b). The Kivist court order applies to direct-to-consumer sales by home bakers. Products cannot be sold to retail food establishments or distributed through wholesale channels without a license.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/97/29>

State dept cottage food page: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CottageFoodLaws.aspx

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

Questions about Eau Claire 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/wisconsin/eau-claire-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 Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. 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/wisconsin/eau-claire-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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