

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Wisconsin · Jefferson · FIPS 55055 · Population 85,932 ·
Crosodo Index #550*

STATE BASELINE

Wis. Stat. §97.29

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.

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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #550* · FIPS 55055 · Jefferson

Jefferson County

Population 85,932 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP license. Baked goods only (exposed to dry heat at 140°F+). Unbaked non-PHF items (chocolates, fudge, candy) are NOT covered by the Kivirist exception per 2024 Court of Appeals ruling. Pickle Bill (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acidified vegetables/fruits (pH ≤4.6) at community events/farmers markets up to \$5,000/year.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Jefferson County and its municipalities (Jefferson, Watertown, Fort Atkinson, Lake Mills, etc.) each set their own home occupation rules. No Jefferson County-specific cottage food permit requirement identified. Producers should check with Jefferson County Planning and Zoning or their municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (DATCP does not conduct routine inspections under Kivirist exception. May investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP license. Baked goods only (exposed to dry heat at 140°F+). Unbaked non-PHF items (chocolates, fudge, candy) are NOT covered by the Kivirist exception per 2024 Court of Appeals ruling. Pickle Bill (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acidified vegetables/fruits (pH ≤4.6) at community events/farmers markets up to \$5,000/year.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement beyond general kitchen sanitation standards.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement beyond general sanitation.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — DATCP does not conduct routine inspections under Kivirist exception. May investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Jefferson County and its municipalities (Jefferson, Watertown, Fort Atkinson, Lake Mills, etc.) each set their own home occupation rules. No Jefferson County-specific cottage food permit requirement identified. Producers should check with Jefferson County Planning and Zoning or their municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Kivist exception: direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale. Pickle Bill: community events and farmers markets only up to \$5,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Low volume is a condition of the Kivist exemption; no specific employee limit stated.

Relevant county code

No Jefferson County-specific cottage food code identified. Wis. Stat. §97.29 and Kivist court order govern.

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County follows the statewide Wisconsin cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state framework confirmed; county-level rules not verified from official county source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jeffersoncounty.gov>

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Licenses_Permits/HomeBakers.aspx

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/issue_briefs/2025/consumer_protection/ib_wis_cottage_food_law_ag_2025_06_18

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	Dodge County	Walworth County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.	Not specified in Kivirist order, but kitchen hygiene (not in question) is a key condition of the Kivirist exemption.	No specific state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Kivirist exception: direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale. Pickle Bill: community events and farmers markets only up to \$5,000/year.	Kivirist exception requires direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale. Home pickup and delivery to consumers is permitted under this fram...	Baked goods: direct-to-consumer, any channel, low volume. Pickles: community events and farmers markets only, \$5,000/year cap. Unbaked good...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP I...	Wisconsin cottage food law is unusual: the Kivirist court order allows home bakers (of good character, sanitary kitchen) to sell non-potent...	Wisconsin's cottage food landscape is shaped by statute and case law: (1) §97.29(2)(b)2: home-canned pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 o...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement beyond general sanitation.	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general sanitation.	Baked goods only under Kivirist. Pickles/acidified vegetables under Pickle Bill. Unbaked goods (candy, chocolate, fudge) require DATCP food...
POPULATION	85,932	89,032	105,127

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

Jefferson 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 Jefferson 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/jefferson-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 Jefferson 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/jefferson-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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