

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Rock County

Wisconsin · Janesville · FIPS 55105 · Population 163,817 ·
Crosodo Index #2451*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.

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: ROCK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2451* · FIPS 55105 · Janesville

Rock County

Population 163,817 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Wisconsin has an unusual framework: (1) the statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles/acidified vegetables at community events or farmers markets, capped at \$5,000/year; (2) the Kivirist court order (2017) allows home bakers of good character to sell nonhazardous shelf-stable baked goods direct-to-consumer at low volume without a license — no stated dollar cap. The 2024 Court of Appeals ruling (2024 WI App 69) confirmed unbaked goods (candies, fudge, chocolates) are NOT covered by the Kivirist exception and require a food processing plant license.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Rock County follows standard Wisconsin local government rules. Home occupation permits may be required under local zoning ordinances. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (DATCP has declined to enforce against home bakers per Kivirist injunction; complaint-driven action possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Wisconsin has an unusual framework: (1) the statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles/acidified vegetables at community events or farmers markets, capped at \$5,000/year; (2) the Kivirist court order (2017) allows home bakers of good character to sell nonhazardous shelf-stable baked goods direct-to-consumer at low volume without a license — no stated dollar cap. The 2024 Court of Appeals ruling (2024 WI App 69) confirmed unbaked goods (candies, fudge, chocolates) are NOT covered by the Kivirist exception and require a food processing plant license.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under the cottage food framework.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — DATCP has declined to enforce against home bakers per Kivirist injunction; complaint-driven action possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Rock County follows standard Wisconsin local government rules. Home occupation permits may be required under local zoning ordinances. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivist-covered baked goods. No wholesale, retail, or online sales allowed under the baked goods exception. Pickle Bill allows farmers market/ community event sales only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation rules may apply under local zoning.

Relevant county code

Rock County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Wis. Stat. §97.29

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. Wisconsin cottage food is case-law driven. Kivist injunction (2017) allows home-baked goods; 2024 WI App 69 limits unbaked confections. No Rock County-specific cottage food rules identified. State baseline is the operative framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.rock.wi.us>

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/rock-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Rock County	Walworth County	Jefferson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction.	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivirist-covered baked goods. No wholesale, retail, or online sales allowed under the baked goods exception. Pi...	Baked goods: direct-to-consumer, any channel, low volume. Pickles: community events and farmers markets only, \$5,000/year cap. Unbaked good...	Kivirist exception: direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale. Pickle Bill: community events and farmers markets only up to \$5,000/year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Wisconsin has an unusual framework: (1) the statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles/acidified vegetables at comm...	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...	Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP l...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.	Baked goods only under Kivirist. Pickles/acidified vegetables under Pickle Bill. Unbaked goods (candy, chocolate, fudge) require DATCP food...	No specific statutory requirement beyond general sanitation.
POPULATION	163,817	105,127	85,932

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

Rock 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 Rock 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/rock-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 Rock 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/rock-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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