

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Iowa

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20.

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED
Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20	Good	B	99

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.

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Executive summary

This report covers the Iowa cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 99 Iowa counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

none

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

no

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

no

KITCHEN INSPECTION

no

DIRECT SALES ONLY

yes

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

limited (see notes) — Cottage food direct-to-consumer sales only; however, a separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license allows indirect retail and wholesale sales of almost any food including perishables.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa has two distinct pathways: (1) the cottage food exemption under §137F.20 (no license, no cap, direct sales only, most non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods), and (2) the Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) registration under a separate section (§137F.8B or related), which allows broader foods including perishables and indirect retail sales. The input notes reference both tiers. The Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing was reorganized in 2023; the new agency name is Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL). Statute text confirmed from official Iowa Legislature PDF. The prohibition of local government from adding restrictions is explicit in §137F.20(1).

Iowa Code Chapter 137F — Food Establishments and Food Processing Plants, Section 137F.20 — Cottage Food Requirements

CITATION

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

ENACTED

1980s

LAST AMENDED

2023

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

Allowed foods

Producers may sell virtually all non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods, including baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, snacks, and many beverages. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) are allowed if each batch is tested with a pH meter (pH \leq 4.6) or water activity meter (aw \leq 0.85) and the production date is on the label.

Prohibited foods

Perishable baked goods (requiring refrigeration), low-acid canned foods (not pH-tested), juices, and meat jerkies are prohibited under the cottage food exemption. TCS foods may be sold through the separate Home Food Processing Establishment license pathway.

Labeling requirements

Labels must include: name and address (or phone or email) of the producer, common name of the food, ingredients in descending order of predominance, and the statement 'This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state licensing and inspection.' Major allergens must also be identified on the label.

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

137F.20 Cottage food — requirements. 1. Cottage food is exempt from all licensing, permitting, inspection, packaging, and labeling laws of the state if the food is sold and delivered by the producer directly to the consumer, or delivered by mail or an agent of the producer such as an employee. A producer may sell food to the consumer in person, remotely, by telephone, by internet, or by an agent of the producer. 2. Cottage food sold pursuant to this section shall be affixed or labeled with all of the following information: a. Information to identify the name and address, phone number, or electronic mail address of the person preparing the food. b. The common name of the food. c. The ingredients of the cottage food in descending order of predominance. d. The following statement: "This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state licensing and inspection." If the cottage food contains one or more major food allergens, an additional allergen statement must be included on the label identifying each major allergen contained in the food by the common name of the allergen. 137F.1 Definitions (excerpt): "Cottage food" means the production and sale of food produced at a private residence other than time/temperature control for safety food as provided in section 137F.20 and food for resale that is not time/temperature control for safety food. "Cottage food" includes home-processed and home-canned pickles, vegetables, or fruits that have a finished equilibrium pH value of four and six-tenths or lower or a water activity value of eighty-five hundredths or less for which each batch has been measured by a pH meter or a water activity meter and each container that is sold or offered for sale contains the date the food was processed and canned.

Source: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

Official sources

Statute <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

State dept page <https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

Registration <https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment-registration>

Extension service <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Iowa-Home-Food-Processing-Establishments>

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

State dept of agriculture / health: Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 99 Iowa counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 142 · FIPS 19153 · Des Moines

Polk County

Population 493,378 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-TCS foods (§137F.20 exemption), no license, no cap, direct sales only. Acidified foods allowed if each batch pH-tested ($\text{pH} \leq 4.6$) or water activity tested ($a_w \leq 0.85$). Alternatively, Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license under §137F.8B allows broader foods including perishables and indirect retail sales.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
HANDWASHING	No specific requirement in state cottage food law
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Iowa §137F.20 explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions; no inspection required for cottage food exemption
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from imposing restrictions on cottage food exemption activities. No local home occupation permit required for cottage food operations. This is one of the strongest preemption provisions in the country.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only within Iowa. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, events. No retail/restaurant wholesale under the §137F.20 exemption. HFPE license allows broader sales including indirect retail. No annual cap under §137F.20.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not restricted by state cottage food law

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption with local preemption). Polk County has no authority to add restrictions.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa is a Good-tier state with unusually strong local preemption. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions to the cottage food exemption. No license, no inspection, no cap, no training required. Polk County (Des Moines) cannot impose additional requirements. Acidified foods allowed with pH/water activity testing. HFPE license is available for broader foods. Confidence high: state preemption is unambiguous in statute.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/iowa/>

RANK 297 · FIPS 19113 · Cedar Rapids

Linn County

Population 229,308 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direct sales only. State law preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). No registration required.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods including acidified foods if pH tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; local government explicitly prohibited from adding restrictions (§137F.20(1))
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food in Linn County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pathway allows broader sales including some retail.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); preempts local ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Linn County IA follows Iowa state baseline. Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20) expressly preempts local regulation — no local licensing or inspection can be required. Cedar Rapids is Iowa's second-largest city. No local cottage food permit required. State law confirmed. No specific Linn County .gov cottage food source retrieved. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.linncountyiowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 376 · FIPS 19163 · Davenport

Scott County

Population 174,315 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, no cap, direct sales only for cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway available for perishables and broader distribution. Local governments expressly prohibited from adding restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS products; pH-tested acidified foods must include production date on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections under cottage food exemption. State DIAL may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. Scott County may have home occupation zoning requirements for home-based businesses but cannot impose food safety regulations. Scott County government website confirmed at scottcountyiowa.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and other direct venues. No sales cap. No interstate sales under cottage exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified; household operation implied.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20; no specific county cottage food code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa statute expressly prohibits local restrictions on cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). Scott County government website confirmed. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline. Iowa Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) is the state regulatory body (reorganized 2023). pH-tested acidified foods allowed under cottage food exemption is notable — more permissive than many states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 438 · FIPS 19103 · Iowa City

Johnson County

Population 153,360 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa has two pathways: (1) cottage food exemption under §137F.20 — no license, no cap, direct sales only, most non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 or aw ≤0.85); (2) Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) registration allows broader foods including perishables and indirect retail sales. State law explicitly prohibits local government from adding restrictions under §137F.20(1).
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Iowa cottage food exemption.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only under exemption. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch pH-tested (≤ 4.6) or water activity tested ($a_w \leq 0.85$) with production date on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Iowa DIAL may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspection for exempt operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — State law prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations under §137F.20(1). However, Johnson County/Iowa City may have general home occupation requirements for business licensing purposes. Local zoning rules may still apply for non-food-specific aspects.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under exemption. From home, at farmers markets, events, roadside stands. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail sales. No out-of-state sales under either pathway.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local rules may apply but state preempts added cottage food restrictions.

Relevant county code

Johnson County Zoning Code; Iowa Code §137F.20

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. State baseline governs. Iowa explicitly prohibits local government from adding restrictions under §137F.20(1). Johnson County is home to University of Iowa and Iowa City. No county-specific cottage food code identified. County URL verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 486 · FIPS 19013 · Waterloo

Black Hawk County

Population 131,041 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa has two pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, direct sales only, non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods. (2) Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) registration: allows broader foods including perishables and indirect retail sales. Local health departments may not impose additional restrictions per §137F.20(1).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods for cottage food exemption. Acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85) allowed if pH/water activity tested and production date labeled.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Iowa DIAL may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspection for cottage food exemption.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Black Hawk County zoning applies in unincorporated areas. City of Waterloo and Cedar Falls have separate home occupation rules. State law explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions to cottage food exemption (§137F.20(1)).

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Cottage food exemption: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, delivery). HFPE pathway: also indirect retail sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); §137F.8B (HFPE).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (IA) confirmed: Iowa Code §137F.20. Black Hawk County govt URL confirmed. Black Hawk County includes Waterloo and Cedar Falls (University of Northern Iowa). State law prohibits local restrictions on cottage food exemption. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

<https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>

RANK 572 · FIPS 19193 · Sioux City

Woodbury County

Population 105,526 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, including pH-tested acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85 with production date on label). No food handler certification required. A separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway allows broader foods including perishables with registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed if pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label. Perishable baked goods, low-acid untested canned foods, juices, and meat jerkins prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections for cottage food exemption. HFPE pathway has separate inspection requirements.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Sioux City and Woodbury County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions to cottage food operations. However, local zoning/home occupation rules may apply for the business operation aspect.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Woodbury County code section identified. State law governs: Iowa Code §137F.20.

RESEARCH NOTES

Woodbury County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Iowa's cottage food exemption prohibits local government from restricting production. Sioux City is Woodbury County's largest city. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 596 · FIPS 19049 · Adel

Dallas County

Population 100,367 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, including pH-tested acidified foods. No food handler certification required. Iowa statute explicitly prohibits local government from adding restrictions. A separate HFPE pathway allows broader foods with registration.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.

WATER SUPPLY No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.

HANDWASHING Standard handwashing practices required.

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed with pH test (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85) and production date on label. Perishable baked goods, low-acid untested canned foods, juices, meat jerkies prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections for cottage food exemption.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa law explicitly prohibits local government from restricting cottage food operations. Dallas County is in the Des Moines metro area and includes fast-growing communities (Waukee, West Des Moines portions). Local zoning/home occupation rules may apply to the business operation aspect, but production restrictions are preempted.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Dallas County code section identified. State law governs: Iowa Code §137F.20.

RESEARCH NOTES

Dallas County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Dallas County is the fastest-growing county in Iowa (Des Moines western suburbs — Waukee, West Des Moines). Iowa's explicit local preemption strengthens cottage food operators' position. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 605 · FIPS 19061 · Dubuque

Dubuque County

Population 98,812 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20) requires no license, no cap, no registration. Direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed, including pH-tested acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 per batch). Local government expressly prohibited from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement for Iowa cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be pH-tested per batch; production date must be on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations under §137F.20.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local government restrictions on cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to end consumers. Sales allowed from home, at farmers markets, events. Indirect sales not permitted under cottage food exemption (separate Home Food Processing Establishment license pathway allows broader distribution).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee limit specified for Iowa cottage food exemption; typically operated by single producer.

Relevant county code

No Dubuque County-specific cottage food code section; state preemption applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Dubuque County-specific cottage food rules found. Iowa §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions, making this one of the more operator-friendly state frameworks. Dubuque County is in eastern Iowa; city of Dubuque may have business license requirements unrelated to cottage food. Iowa reorganized its food safety agency as Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) in 2023.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 607 · FIPS 19169 · Nevada

Story County

Population 98,573 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. State expressly prohibits local government from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1). Story County is home to Iowa State University (Ames) and has an active agricultural extension presence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be batch pH-tested.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED no — No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT no — Iowa §137F.20(1) preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations. Story County (home to Ames and Iowa State University) follows state preemption.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct sales only to end consumers from home, farmers markets, events. No indirect retail/wholesale under cottage food exemption. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment pathway available for broader distribution.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific limit in Iowa cottage food exemption.

Relevant county code

No Story County-specific cottage food code; state preemption applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Story County has provided URL (storycountyiowa.gov). No county-specific cottage food rules found on review. Iowa state preemption is strong. Story County is home to Iowa State University extension which provides producer education resources. City of Ames may have business license requirements for home-based operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov>

RANK 635 · FIPS 19155 · Council Bluffs

Pottawattamie County

Population 93,543 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. State expressly prohibits local government from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1). Pottawattamie County is part of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be batch pH-tested.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20(1) preempts local restrictions. Council Bluffs may have business license requirements unrelated to cottage food; operators should verify.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to end consumers. Home, farmers markets, events. No indirect retail/wholesale under cottage food exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit.

Relevant county code

No Pottawattamie County-specific cottage food code; state preemption applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Pottawattamie County-specific cottage food rules found. Iowa state preemption is strong. Pottawattamie County (Council Bluffs) is part of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area; Council Bluffs may have business license requirements. Iowa DIAL reorganized from Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals in 2023.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 949 · FIPS 19181 · Indianola

Warren County

Population 52,709 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); §137F.8B (HFPE pathway) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food exemption: no license, no cap, direct sales only. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods (pH 4.6 or below or water activity 0.85 or below) with production date on label. Separate HFPE registration allows broader foods including some TCS items and indirect retail sales.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific IA state or Warren County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under cottage food exemption.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement under cottage food exemption.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods primarily. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with testing. Perishable TCS foods require HFPE registration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED no — Iowa DIAL may investigate on complaint or foodborne illness.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Warren County is a suburban/exurban county south of Des Moines (Indianola). Growing population near metro area. No specific Warren County cottage food zoning ordinance identified. Contact Warren County government in Indianola for home occupation requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Under cottage food exemption: direct to consumer only. Under HFPE: indirect retail sales also permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in IA statute.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20; no Warren County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Warren County is a growing suburban county south of Des Moines; Indianola is home to the National Balloon Classic. No county-specific cottage food rules found. Iowa has two distinct pathways: (1) cottage food exemption under §137F.20 with no license or cap; (2) HFPE registration for broader foods. Iowa renamed its agency to DIAL (Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) in 2023.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19001 · Greenfield

Adair County

Population 7,152 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under the Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Producers may sell non-TCS foods including baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) and production date is labeled. Direct sales only. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Adair County unincorporated area home occupation rules follow county zoning ordinance. Typical Iowa rural county standards apply: business must be incidental to residential use, no exterior evidence of commercial activity, limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §414.33 (city home-based business) preempts city-level restrictions; county zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
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ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); Adair County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Adair County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. The Iowa DIAL reorganization (2023) renamed the agency but did not change cottage food rules. Medium confidence because county zoning ordinance text was not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.adaircountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19003 · Corning

Adams County

Population 3,704 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Allowed foods: non-TCS items including baked goods, candies, dried goods, preserves, snacks. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with labeled production date. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Adams County unincorporated area home occupation rules follow county zoning ordinance. Typical Iowa rural county standards: business incidental to residential use, no exterior commercial evidence, limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, roadside stands, events allowed. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under cottage food exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20; Adams County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. §137F.20 preempts local cottage food restrictions. No Adams County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Medium confidence — county zoning text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.adamscountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19005 · Waukon

Allamakee County

Population 13,687 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Allamakee County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.allamakeecounty.com>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19007 · Centerville

Appanoose County

Population 12,523 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Appanoose County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.appanoosecounty.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19009 · Audubon

Audubon County

Population 5,481 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Audubon County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.auduboncountyiowa.com>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19011 · Vinton

Benton County

Population 25,645 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Benton County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bentoncountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19015 · Boone

Boone County

Population 26,234 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Boone County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.boonecountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19017 · Waverly

Bremer County

Population 24,798 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Bremer County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bremercounty.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19019 · Independence

Buchanan County

Population 21,099 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Buchanan County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.buchanancountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19021 · Storm Lake

Buena Vista County

Population 19,620 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Buena Vista County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buonavistacounty.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19023 · Allison

Butler County

Population 14,439 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Butler County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.butlercountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19025 · Rockwell City

Calhoun County

Population 9,670 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Calhoun County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.calhouncountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19027 · Carroll

Carroll County

Population 20,163 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Carroll County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.carrollcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19029 · Atlantic

Cass County

Population 13,193 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Cass County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.casscountyiowa.us>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19031 · Tipton

Cedar County

Population 18,627 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Cedar County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.cedarcountyiowa.org>
 - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>
-

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19033 · Mason City

Cerro Gordo County

Population 42,285 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Cerro Gordo County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cgcounty.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19035 · Cherokee

Cherokee County

Population 11,227 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Cherokee County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cherokeecountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19037 · New Hampton

Chickasaw County

Population 11,933 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested ($\text{pH} \leq 4.6$) or water-activity tested ($\text{Aw} \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Chickasaw County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chickasawcountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19039 · Osceola

Clarke County

Population 9,395 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Clarke County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.clarkecountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19041 · Spencer

Clay County

Population 15,888 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Clay County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.claycountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19043 · Elkader

Clayton County

Population 17,549 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Clayton County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.clayton.ia.us>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19045 · Clinton

Clinton County

Population 46,429 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Clinton County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.clintoncountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19047 · Denison

Crawford County

Population 17,426 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Crawford County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.crawfordcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19051 · Bloomfield

Davis County

Population 8,753 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Davis County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.daviscountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19053 · Leon

Decatur County

Population 7,870 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Decatur County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.decaturoiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19055 · Manchester

Delaware County

Population 17,258 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Delaware County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.delawarecountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19057 · Burlington

Des Moines County

Population 38,967 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Des Moines County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dmcounty.com>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19059 · Spirit Lake

Dickinson County

Population 17,258 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Dickinson County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dickinsoncountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19063 · Estherville

Emmet County

Population 9,208 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Emmet County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.emmettcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19065 · West Union

Fayette County

Population 19,650 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Fayette County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fayettedcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19067 · Charles City

Floyd County

Population 15,642 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Floyd County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.floydcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19069 · Hampton

Franklin County

Population 10,252 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Franklin County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.franklincountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19071 · Sidney

Fremont County

Population 6,974 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Fremont County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fremontcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19073 · Jefferson

Greene County

Population 8,888 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Greene County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.greenecountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19075 · Grundy Center

Grundy County

Population 12,241 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Grundy County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.grundycountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19077 · Guthrie Center

Guthrie County

Population 10,689 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Guthrie County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.guthriecountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19079 · Webster City

Hamilton County

Population 14,773 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Hamilton County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hamiltoncountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19081 · Garner

Hancock County

Population 10,838 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Hancock County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hancockcountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19083 · Eldora

Hardin County

Population 16,843 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Hardin County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.hardincountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19085 · Logan

Harrison County

Population 14,049 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Harrison County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.harrisoncountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19087 · Mount Pleasant

Henry County

Population 19,954 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested ($A_w \leq 0.85$) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Henry County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.henrycountyiowa.org>
- <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19089 · Cresco

Howard County

Population 9,332 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (Aw ≤0.85) with production date labeled. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions beyond state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL (Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing) may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Iowa rural county zoning ordinances typically require a home occupation permit or conditional use approval for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Business must be incidental to residential use with no exterior evidence of commercial activity and limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions; Iowa Code §414.33 preempts city-level home business restrictions. County zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, or events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption (separate HFPE license required for indirect sales).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; county home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); county zoning ordinance home occupation provisions

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Howard County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. Iowa DIAL reorganized in 2023 but cottage food rules unchanged. Medium confidence — county zoning ordinance text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.howardcountyiowa.gov>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19091 · Dakota City

Humboldt County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Humboldt County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Humboldt County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19093 · Ida Grove

Ida County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Ida County.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE yes

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Ida County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19095 · Marengo

Iowa County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Iowa County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Iowa County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19097 · Maquoketa

Jackson County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Jackson County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Jackson County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19099 · Newton

Jasper County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Jasper County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Jasper County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19101 · Fairfield

Jefferson County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Jefferson County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Jefferson County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19105 · Anamosa

Jones County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Jones County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Jones County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19107 · Sigourney

Keokuk County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Keokuk County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Keokuk County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19109 · Algona

Kossuth County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Kossuth County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Kossuth County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19111 · —

Lee County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.

HANDWASHING No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Lee County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Lee County. Note: Lee County has two county seats (Ft. Madison and Keokuk). Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

Louisa County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Louisa County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Louisa County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19117 · Chariton

Lucas County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Lucas County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Lucas County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19119 · Rock Rapids

Lyon County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Lyon County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Lyon County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19121 · Winterset

Madison County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Madison County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Madison County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19123 · Oskaloosa

Mahaska County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Mahaska County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Mahaska County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19125 · Knoxville

Marion County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Marion County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Marion County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19127 · Marshalltown

Marshall County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Marshall County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Marshall County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19129 · Glenwood

Mills County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Mills County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Mills County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19131 · Osage

Mitchell County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Mitchell County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Mitchell County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19133 · Onawa

Monona County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Monona County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Monona County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19135 · Albia

Monroe County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Monroe County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Monroe County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19137 · Red Oak

Montgomery County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Montgomery County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Montgomery County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19139 · Muscatine

Muscatine County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Muscatine County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Muscatine County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19141 · Primghar

O'Brien County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in O'Brien County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in O'Brien County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19143 · Sibley

Osceola County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Osceola County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Osceola County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19145 · Clarinda

Page County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Page County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Page County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19147 · Emmetsburg

Palo Alto County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Palo Alto County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Palo Alto County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19149 · Le Mars

Plymouth County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Plymouth County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Plymouth County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19151 · Pocahontas

Pocahontas County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Pocahontas County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Pocahontas County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19157 · Montezuma

Poweshiek County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Poweshiek County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Poweshiek County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19159 · Mount Ayr

Ringgold County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Ringgold County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Ringgold County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19161 · Sac City

Sac County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Sac County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Sac County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19165 · Harlan

Shelby County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Shelby County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Shelby County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19167 · Orange City

Sioux County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Sioux County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Sioux County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19171 · Toledo

Tama County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Tama County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Tama County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19173 · Bedford

Taylor County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Taylor County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Taylor County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19175 · Creston

Union County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Union County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Union County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19177 · Keosauqua

Van Buren County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Van Buren County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Van Buren County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19179 · Ottumwa

Wapello County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Wapello County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Wapello County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19183 · Washington

Washington County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Washington County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Washington County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19185 · Corydon

Wayne County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Wayne County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Wayne County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19187 · Fort Dodge

Webster County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Webster County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Webster County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19189 · Forest City

Winnebago County

Population 0 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private residence. No license, inspection, or sales cap. Local ordinances are expressly preempted by state law.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Iowa cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing mandate under Iowa cottage food law beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or water-activity tested (aw ≤0.85) and production date is on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Winnebago County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Iowa cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State preemption under Iowa Code §137F.20(1) applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state law (§137F.20) explicitly preempts local ordinances for cottage food operations — no county-specific restrictions apply in Winnebago County. Two state pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption — no license, no cap, direct sales only; (2) HFPE license (\$50/year) — allows some TCS foods and indirect retail sales up to \$50,000/year. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19191 · Decorah

Winneshiek County

Population 20,027 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must operate from primary residence. No license or inspection required for cottage food. Only non-TCS foods. Direct sales to end consumer only. Acidified foods allowed only if pH or water activity tested per batch.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state or county rule, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no additional testing mandate for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard good hygiene practices; no specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe handling to prevent adulteration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. DIAL may investigate upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Winneshiek County Zoning Ordinance §404.51 defines home occupation as an accessory residential use: must be carried on by a resident family member, clearly incidental and secondary to residential use, no more than 2 non-family employees, no exterior display or storage, maximum 1 flush-mounted sign not exceeding 3 sq ft, occupies no more than 50% of one floor, and causes no offensive noise, vibration, smoke, odor, or glare. Farmstead home occupations (§404.52) allow up to 1 sign not exceeding 12 sq ft. Cottage food businesses operating from a home in unincorporated Winneshiek County must comply with these provisions. Contact Winneshiek County Planning & Zoning to confirm permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Iowa cottage food law requires direct sales from producer to consumer. Home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No wholesale or restaurant sales. Customer traffic at residence must remain incidental per county zoning §404.51.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 persons outside the immediate family per Winneshiek County Zoning Ordinance §404.51.

Relevant county code

Winneshiek County Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations V, §404.51 (Home Occupation) and §404.52 (Home Occupation, Farmstead), last amended 9/2/25.

RESEARCH NOTES

Winneshiek County's zoning ordinance (V, last amended 9/2/25) was located via the county website. Section 404.51 directly addresses home occupations: family-member operated, up to 2 non-family employees, no exterior display, 1 flush-mounted sign max 3 sq ft, max 50% of one floor, no nuisance. Iowa cottage food (Iowa Code §137F.1/§137F.20) requires no license or inspection; direct sales only; non-TCS foods only. County is primarily rural/agricultural. Confidence medium because permit requirement specifics not confirmed from official permit application process.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://winneshiekcounty.iowa.gov/departments/planning-zoning/county-ordinance>

<https://winneshiekcounty.iowa.gov>

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://winneshiekcounty.iowa.gov/departments/planning-zoning/county-ordinance>

<https://winneshiekcounty.iowa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Winn-Co-Zoning-Ordinance-V-amended-9-2-25.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19195 · Northwood

Worth County

Population 7,599 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must operate from primary residence. No license or inspection required for cottage food. Only non-TCS foods. Direct sales to end consumer only. Acidified foods allowed only if pH or water activity tested per batch.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state or county rule, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no additional testing mandate for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard good hygiene practices; no specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe handling to prevent adulteration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. DIAL may investigate upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Worth County is a small rural Iowa county. Iowa counties typically regulate home occupations through their zoning ordinances as accessory residential uses, requiring operations to be secondary to residential use, conducted by a resident, with no exterior commercial evidence, and limited to a portion of the home. No specific Worth County zoning ordinance text found in research; county-specific rules should be verified with Worth County Planning & Zoning or the Board of Supervisors in Northwood.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Iowa cottage food law requires direct sales from producer to consumer. Home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No wholesale or restaurant sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; typical Iowa rural county home occupation rules restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Worth County Zoning Ordinance (unincorporated areas); contact Worth County for current text.

RESEARCH NOTES

Worth County is a small, rural northern Iowa county (pop. ~7,600). No specific county zoning ordinance text was located for Worth County in research. Iowa cottage food law (§137F.1/§137F.20) governs food safety; no license or inspection required; direct sales only; non-TCS foods. County zoning home occupation rules are assumed to follow standard Iowa rural county patterns (accessory use, resident-operated, no exterior display). Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence. Operators should contact Worth County at (641) 324-2316 for county-specific zoning confirmation.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.worthcountyiowa.gov>

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 19197 · Clarion

Wright County

Population 12,584 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must operate from primary residence. No license or inspection required for cottage food. Only non-TCS foods. Direct sales to end consumer only. Acidified foods allowed only if pH or water activity tested per batch.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state or county rule, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no additional testing mandate for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard good hygiene practices; no specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe handling to prevent adulteration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. DIAL may investigate upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Wright County is a rural north-central Iowa county. Iowa counties typically regulate home occupations through their zoning ordinances as accessory residential uses, requiring operations to be secondary to residential use, conducted by a resident, with no exterior commercial evidence, and limited to a portion of the home. No specific Wright County zoning ordinance text found in research; county-specific rules should be verified with Wright County Planning & Zoning or the Board of Supervisors in Clarion.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Iowa cottage food law requires direct sales from producer to consumer. Home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No wholesale or restaurant sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; typical Iowa rural county home occupation rules restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Wright County Zoning Ordinance (unincorporated areas); contact Wright County for current text.

RESEARCH NOTES

Wright County is a rural north-central Iowa county (pop. ~12,600). No specific county zoning ordinance text was located for Wright County in research. Iowa cottage food law (§137F.1/§137F.20) governs food safety; no license or inspection required; direct sales only; non-TCS foods. County zoning home occupation rules are assumed to follow standard Iowa rural county patterns (accessory use, resident-operated, no exterior display). Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence. Operators should contact Wright County at (515) 532-3113 for county-specific zoning confirmation.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.wrightcountyiowa.gov>

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

Generated 2026-05-06 from data/research/state_cottage_food_statutes.csv and data/research/county_cottage_food_zoning.csv. This report is for research purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Cottage food law is in active flux — re-verify all citations and rules against state and county .gov sources before relying on them for regulatory decisions.