

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Montana

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act).

STATUTE

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED	LAST VERIFIED
Freedom	A-	56	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 Montana 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 56 Montana counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

none

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

no

DIRECT SALES ONLY

yes

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

upon-complaint

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

no — Consignment sales at retail food establishments or through wholesale establishments are explicitly prohibited under §50-50-116(3). The Montana Local Food Choice Act also requires direct producer-to-informed-end-consumer transactions only; retail locations require a wholesale food license.

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana has a two-track system. Track 1: Standard cottage food under §§50-50-116 and 50-50-117 (enacted 2015) requires local health authority registration, labeling, no consignment. Track 2: The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq., enacted 2021 via SB 199) provides broad exemptions from all licensing/inspection for direct producer-to-consumer transactions of homemade food including potentially hazardous foods. Under the MLFCA, producers are not 'retail food establishments' and are not subject to licensure, but must inform consumers that food is unlicensed/uninspected. No sales cap under either track. The original statute_url in the input pointed to a 404 (§50-50-117 registration section); the operative exemption conditions are in §50-50-116, confirmed via the live Montana legislature website. Justia also confirms §50-50-117 text (registration requirements). DPHHS guidance doc confirmed at dphhs.mt.gov.

Montana Code Annotated Title 50, Chapter 50, Part 1 — Retail Food Establishments: Cottage Food Operations; and Title 50, Chapter 49 — Montana Local Food Choice Act

CITATION	ENACTED
Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)	2015
LAST AMENDED	CONFIDENCE
2021	HIGH

Allowed foods

Non-potentially-hazardous cottage food products prepared in the domestic residence are allowed and can be sold directly to consumers at farmers markets, events, from home, and at other locations. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (enacted 2021) additionally allows direct-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food — including potentially hazardous items like raw milk, meat, and eggs — between producer and informed end consumer without licensing, inspection, or labeling requirements.

Prohibited foods

Under the standard cottage food framework (§50-50-116), consignment sales through retail or wholesale establishments are prohibited, and products must comply with food standards including applicable 2013 FDA Food Code provisions. Under the MLFCA, producers cannot sell through retail food establishments without a license; sales must be in-state and direct to informed end consumers only.

Labeling requirements

Labels must include: name, address, city, state, zip of operation; product name; ingredients in descending order by weight; net quantity; allergen labeling per federal/state law; and a conspicuous statement in at least 11-point font: 'Made in a home kitchen that is not subject to retail food establishment regulations or inspections.' Under the MLFCA, producers must inform consumers that the food has not been licensed, permitted, certified, packaged, labeled, or inspected.

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

50-50-116. Conditions for cottage food operation exemption from licensure and routine facility inspection. (1) To acquire the status of not being a retail food establishment, a cottage food operation must meet the conditions in this section and shall register with a local health authority as provided in 50-50-117. (2) A cottage food operation shall: (a) follow department food standards as provided in rule, including applicable provisions implementing the 2013 United States food and drug administration food code; (b) package cottage food products and label the cottage food products prior to sale, including on the label, at a minimum, the following: (i) the name, address, city, state, and zip code of the cottage food operation; (ii) the name of the cottage food product; (iii) the ingredients of the cottage food product, in descending order of predominance by weight; (iv) the net quantity, weight, count, or volume of the cottage food product; (v) allergen labeling as specified by federal and state labeling requirements; (vi) if a nutritional claim is made, an appropriate label if required by federal law; and (vii) the following statement, printed in at least the equivalent of 11-point font size in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background and is conspicuously placed on the principal label: "Made in a home kitchen that is not subject to retail food establishment regulations or inspections." (3) Providing cottage food products by consignment, including at a retail food establishment or through a wholesale establishment, is prohibited. (7) A cottage food operation that meets the requirements in this section is not a retail food establishment or a wholesale food establishment and is not subject to licensure or inspection requirements under Title 50, chapter 57, or this chapter. History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Source: https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

Official sources

Statute https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

State dept page <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

Extension service <https://www.montana.edu/extension/familyandconsumer/>

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

State dept of agriculture / health: [Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services](#)

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 56 Montana counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 399 · FIPS 30111 · Billings

Yellowstone County

Population 165,524 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Standard cottage food (§50-50-116): local health authority registration required, labeling required, no consignment sales through retail/wholesale establishments. Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.): no licensing/inspection for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food including potentially hazardous foods. No sales cap under either track. All sales must be in-state.
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	Appropriate storage; MLFCA requires informed consumer disclosure.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — DPHHS may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections under MLFCA.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT yes — Yellowstone County requires home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Billings city has its own cottage food operations rules distinct from county. County zoning defines home occupation as accessory activity — no non-resident employees, conducted entirely within dwelling, no visible signage, no external evidence of business. Billings-area zoning (various Planning and Zoning Districts) governs properties in the county.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE no

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct sales within Montana at home, farmers markets, and other venues. MLFCA: delivery to informed end consumers allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Residents only per home occupation zoning rules.

Relevant county code

Yellowstone County Zoning Regulations (Planning and Zoning Districts); Mont. Code §50-50-116 through §50-50-117; Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Yellowstone County zoning regulations retrieved from billingsmt.gov (District 17 zoning regulations) confirm home occupation definition: no non-resident employees, conducted wholly within dwelling, no signage, no exterior evidence of business, no heavy vehicles. Billings has its own cottage food rules distinct from county. Montana's two-track system (standard cottage food + MLFCA) provides broad freedoms. County URLs were blank in input. Billings is the most populous city in Montana.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://billingsmt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1290/Special-Zoning-Districts-17?bidId=>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/yellowstone-county-mt>

RANK 519 • FIPS 30031 • Bozeman

Gallatin County

Population 119,685 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act); no sales cap; registration with local health authority required (standard track); direct sales only · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§§50-50-116/117): requires local health authority registration, non-PHF foods, no consignment; (2) Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.): broad exemption from licensing/inspection for direct producer-to-consumer including potentially hazardous foods. Gallatin County / Bozeman are a fast-growing area with Gallatin City-County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction for cottage food; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per Montana Food Code standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under either MT track.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard track: non-PHF shelf-stable products. MLFCA track: any homemade food including PHF; producer must inform consumers food is unlicensed/uninspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Standard track: inspection upon complaint. MLFCA track: no licensing/inspection required. Complaint-driven investigation by local health authority possible under either.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Gallatin County home occupation permit requirements found specifically for cottage food. Montana Local Food Choice Act (MLFCA) provides broad exemptions. Gallatin County zoning or Bozeman city zoning may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Contact Gallatin County Planning or Bozeman Community Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Standard track: direct sales only at farmers markets, events, from home, and other locations; no consignment. MLFCA track: direct producer-to-consumer only, in-state. No retail/wholesale establishment sales without a license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §§50-50-116 / 50-50-117; Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (MT tier Freedom). Montana has both a standard cottage food track and the expansive Local Food Choice Act. Gallatin County (Bozeman) is Montana's fastest-growing county. Missoula County Health Department page showed a 'Cottage Food Operations' section, suggesting local health departments administer the registration. No county-specific URLs provided in input. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 523 · FIPS 30063 · Missoula

Missoula County

Population 118,541 · State baseline: Mont. Code §§50-50-116/117 (standard cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act); no sales cap; registration with local health authority required (standard track); direct sales only · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food: requires registration with local health authority (Missoula City-County Health Department), non-PHF foods, no consignment; (2) Montana Local Food Choice Act: broad exemption for direct producer-to-consumer including PHF foods, no licensing/inspection. Home occupation also governed by Missoula County Zoning §5.17.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition; standard food safety sanitation practices. Eating or drinking establishments are prohibited as home occupations under Missoula County Zoning §5.17(D)(6).
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per Montana Food Code and Missoula City-County Health standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under either MT track.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard track: non-PHF shelf-stable products. MLFCA track: any homemade food; producer must disclose unlicensed/uninspected status.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Standard track: registration may involve Missoula City-County Health Department review; complaints investigated. MLFCA track: no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Missoula County Zoning §5.17 governs home occupations. Key standards: operator must reside on property; max 1 non-resident employee/associate on-site; up to 3 clients/customers at one time on-site; all activities within enclosed building; no excessive noise/odors/traffic. NOTE: Section §5.17(D)(6) expressly prohibits 'eating or drinking establishments' as home occupations. This may require careful interpretation for cottage food (direct sales vs. eating establishment). Building Division may need to determine if change-of-use permit is required. Consult Missoula County Public Works Department Building Division.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Deliveries/pickups associated with home occupation allowed 8 AM–7 PM per Missoula County Zoning §5.17. No semi-tractor trailers. Montana standard track: direct sales only; MLFCA: direct producer-to-consumer only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Maximum 1 non-resident employee or associate on-site at any time per Missoula County Zoning §5.17.

Relevant county code

Missoula County Zoning Regulations Chapter 5, §5.17 (Home Occupations); Mont. Code §§50-50-116/117; Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

County-specific data confirmed from official Missoula County government sources. Missoula County Zoning §5.17 directly retrieved and summarized from official PDF ([missoulacounty.gov/media](https://www.missoulacounty.gov/media)). Missoula City-County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Operations section. The prohibition on 'eating or drinking establishments' as home occupations in §5.17(D)(6) is a notable county-specific provision that cottage food operators should clarify with the county. MLFCA provides an alternative track. Confidence high.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/food-lodging-body-art-child-care/food-services>

<https://missoulacounty.us/departments/planning-development-and-sustainability/development-review/zoning-regulations>

<https://www.missoulacounty.us>

<https://www.missoulacounty.gov/media/yvnpunrs/chapter-five-use-standards-and-conditions.pdf>

<https://missoulacounty.us/departments/planning-development-and-sustainability/development-review/zoning-regulations>

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/food-lodging-body-art-child-care/food-services>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

RANK 570 · FIPS 30029 · Kalispell

Flathead County

Population 105,950 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117; Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§50-50-116): Non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in domestic residence, local health authority registration required, labeling required, no consignment; (2) Montana Local Food Choice Act (§50-49-201 et seq., 2021): Broad exemption for direct producer-to-consumer transactions including potentially hazardous foods — no licensing, inspection, or labeling required, but producer must inform consumers food is unlicensed/uninspected. No sales cap under either track.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard cottage food: non-potentially hazardous foods only. Local Food Choice Act: allows potentially hazardous foods in direct producer-to-consumer transactions. Meat, poultry, seafood must comply with applicable food safety laws.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Standard cottage food track: complaint-based inspection possible. Local Food Choice Act track: producers not considered 'retail food establishments' — no routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Flathead County may have home occupation zoning requirements in its unincorporated areas. The City of Kalispell has its own zoning regulations. No specific Flathead County cottage food ordinance identified, but operators should verify with Flathead County Planning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Standard cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, from home. No consignment. Local Food Choice Act: any direct producer-to-consumer transaction including home pickup, farmers markets, events. No indirect/retail sales without license under MLFCA.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Flathead County code section identified. State law governs: Mont. Code §50-50-116; §50-49-201 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Flathead County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input and has county govt and health URLs. Montana has a very permissive two-track cottage food system. The Local Food Choice Act (2021) allows even potentially hazardous foods in direct consumer transactions. Flathead County Health Department URL provided but no specific cottage food override page found. Confidence medium — county health URL exists but no county-specific cottage food rules identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.flatheadcounty.gov/health>

<https://www.flathead.mt.gov>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 673 · FIPS 30013 · Great Falls

Cascade County

Population 84,423 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Cascade County has a specific Cottage Food Operation guidance and registration application administered by the Cascade City-County Health Department. One-time registration fee of \$40. Approved foods include non-PHF items: baked goods (bread, cakes, pastries, cookies, crackers, granola, nuts/mixes, pies), dried fruits/herbs (pH ≤4.6), standardized jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters (≥55% sugar), popcorn/cotton candy, fudge/candies with cooking step, molded chocolate. Prohibited: buttercream/cream cheese frostings, pepper/low-sugar jams, products with meat or cheese, cheesecake, pumpkin/meringue/custard/unbaked fruit pies, no-bake cookies. Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional broader pathway for direct producer-to-consumer transactions.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Pets must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per Cascade County guidance.

WATER SUPPLY No specific additional requirement identified in county guidance.

HANDWASHING	Food must be produced in a clean kitchen; food-contact surfaces must be cleaned and sanitized. Standard hygiene practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be properly stored and handled to prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Applicant grants local health official access to residence for inspection in event of complaint based on illness associated with products. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — A home occupancy license or certificate may be required. City of Great Falls Planning: 406-455-8414 (City of Great Falls Home Occupation Application). Unincorporated areas: Cascade County Planning Department: 406-454-6905 (Cascade County Home Occupation Permit Application). This is explicitly noted in the Cascade County Cottage Food Operation guidance document.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment/retail/wholesale. Under MLFCA, broader direct-to-consumer transactions permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in county guidance or state law.

Relevant county code

Administrative Rules of Montana 37.110 Subchapter 5 (Cottage Food Operations). Cascade County Cottage Food Operation Guidance and Registration Application (2023 version). City of Great Falls Home Occupation Application. Cascade County Home Occupation Permit Application.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cascade County is notable for having specific county-level cottage food guidance from the Cascade City-County Health Department, including a registration application with a \$40 one-time fee. The county guidance document explicitly lists approved and prohibited foods, sanitation requirements, labeling requirements, and notes that a home occupancy license may be required from either City of Great Falls Planning (406-455-8414) or Cascade County Planning (406-454-6905). The county .gov website confirms these resources. Confidence is high: county-specific guidance obtained from official Cascade County government website (.cascadecountymt.gov).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cascadecountymt.gov>

<https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/576/Home-Kitchens>

https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2186/2023_CCHD-Cottage-Food-Application-PDF?bidId=

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

RANK 757 · FIPS 30049 · Helena

Lewis and Clark County

Population 71,487 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation; producer must grant access for complaint-based inspection
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Lewis and Clark County/Helena local ordinances may require a business permit for home-based sales. Lewis and Clark County Public Health (PHLicEst@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8919) administers cottage food registration locally. Local towns/counties may have additional permit/licensing requirements for parking-lot or off-premises sales.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Delivery to purchaser permitted if producer delivers directly.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Lewis and Clark County Public Health - Licensed Establishment Program

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana freedom-tier state. Lewis and Clark County has a county public health page specifically listing Cottage Foods as a program area. One-time \$40 registration with local EH agency. Pet exclusion during production explicitly required. Farmers market sales only do not require registration. Local business licensing may additionally apply. Contact: Nina Heinzinger, PHLicEst@lccountymt.gov.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lccountymt.gov>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://www.lccountymt.gov/Government/Public-Health/Licensing-and-Inspections/Food-Facilities>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30001 · Dillon

Beaverhead County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Beaverhead County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Dillon may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Beaverhead County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Beaverhead County. Largest county by area in Montana; very rural. Governance follows state law under both the standard cottage food track and Montana Local Food Choice Act. Recommend verifying with Beaverhead County Planning and Beaverhead City-County Health Department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30003 · Hardin

Big Horn County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Big Horn County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Hardin may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Big Horn County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Big Horn County. County includes Crow Indian Reservation and Bighorn Canyon NRA. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Big Horn County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30005 · Chinook

Blaine County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Blaine County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Chinook may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Blaine County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Blaine County. Very rural plains county in north-central Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Blaine County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30007 · Townsend

Broadwater County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Broadwater County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Townsend may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Broadwater County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Broadwater County. Small rural county along the Missouri River. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Broadwater County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30009 · Red Lodge

Carbon County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Carbon County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Red Lodge may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Carbon County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/ uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Carbon County. County includes Red Lodge ski area and access to Yellowstone. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Carbon County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30011 · Ekalaka

Carter County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Carter County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Ekalaka may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Carter County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Carter County. Remote southeast Montana county; very low population. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Carter County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30015 · Fort Benton

Chouteau County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Chouteau County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Fort Benton may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Chouteau County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Chouteau County. Fort Benton is the historic birthplace of Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Chouteau County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30017 · Miles City

Custer County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Custer County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Miles City may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Custer County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Custer County. Miles City is a regional center in eastern Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Custer County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30019 · Scobey

Daniels County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Daniels County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Scobey may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Daniels County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Daniels County. Remote northeast Montana county; very low population. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Daniels County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30021 · Glendive

Dawson County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Dawson County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Glendive may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Dawson County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Dawson County. Glendive is a regional center in eastern Montana near Badlands. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Dawson County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30023 · Anaconda

Deer Lodge County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Deer Lodge County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Anaconda may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Deer Lodge County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Deer Lodge County. Anaconda is a consolidated city-county government (Anaconda-Deer Lodge County). Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30025 · Baker

Fallon County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Fallon County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Baker may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Fallon County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Fallon County. Remote southeast Montana county; oil and gas region. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Fallon County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30027 · Lewistown

Fergus County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Fergus County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Lewistown may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Fergus County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Fergus County. Lewistown is the geographic center of Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Fergus County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30033 · Jordan

Garfield County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Garfield County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Jordan may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Garfield County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Garfield County. Among the most sparsely populated counties in the US. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Garfield County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30035 · Cut Bank

Glacier County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Glacier County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Cut Bank may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Glacier County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Glacier County. County borders Glacier National Park and Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Glacier County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30037 · Ryegate

Golden Valley County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Golden Valley County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Ryegate may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Golden Valley County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Golden Valley County. One of the least populated counties in Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Golden Valley County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30039 · Philipsburg

Granite County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Granite County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Philipsburg may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Granite County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Granite County. Small mountain county in western Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Granite County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30041 · Havre

Hill County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Hill County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Havre may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Hill County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Hill County. Havre is a regional center in the Hi-Line region near Canada. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Hill County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30043 · Boulder

Jefferson County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Jefferson County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Boulder may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Jefferson County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Jefferson County. Located between Helena and Butte; includes part of Boulder Hot Springs area. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Jefferson County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30045 · Stanford

Judith Basin County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Judith Basin County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Stanford may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Judith Basin County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Judith Basin County. Very rural agricultural county in central Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Judith Basin County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30047 · Polson

Lake County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Lake County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Polson may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Lake County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Lake County. County borders Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Lake County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30051 · Chester

Liberty County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Liberty County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Chester may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Liberty County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Liberty County. Very rural Hi-Line county near Canada; very low population. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Liberty County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30053 · Libby

Lincoln County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Lincoln County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Libby may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Lincoln County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Lincoln County. Northwest Montana county bordering Idaho and Canada. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Lincoln County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30055 · Circle

McCone County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific McCone County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Circle may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with McCone County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for McCone County. Remote eastern Montana county; very low population. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with McCone County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30057 · Virginia City

Madison County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Madison County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Virginia City may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Madison County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Madison County. County seat Virginia City is a historic gold-rush era town. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Madison County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30059 · White Sulphur Springs

Meagher County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Meagher County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of White Sulphur Springs may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Meagher County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Meagher County. Remote central Montana county; one of the least populated in Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Meagher County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30061 · Superior

Mineral County

Population 0 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Mineral County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Superior may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Mineral County planning/zoning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Mineral County. Small western Montana county along the Clark Fork River. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Mineral County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30065 · Roundup

Musselshell County

Population 4,688 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Musselshell County is a small rural county. Local ordinances may require a business permit for home-based sales. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Musselshell County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. Small, rural county (county seat Roundup). State baseline applied. Confidence medium as no county-specific .gov source verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30067 · Livingston

Park County

Population 17,312 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Park County borders Yellowstone National Park and has a growing agricultural/tourism economy. Local ordinances may require a business permit for home-based sales. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Park County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found via research. State baseline applied. Confidence medium as no county-specific .gov source verified for local zoning overlays.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30069 · Winnett

Petroleum County

Population 487 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production

WATER SUPPLY Standard residential water supply

HANDWASHING Sanitary food preparation operations required

FOOD STORAGE Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Petroleum County is one of the least populous counties in the United States. No formal county zoning structure found. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. Petroleum County is one of the least populous counties in the US (~487 residents). 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30071 · Malta

Phillips County

Population 3,857 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Phillips County is a large, sparsely populated agricultural county in north-central Montana. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Phillips County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30073 · Conrad

Pondera County

Population 5,813 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Pondera County is a rural agricultural county in north-central Montana near the Rocky Mountain Front. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Pondera County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30075 · Broadus

Powder River County

Population 1,694 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Powder River County is one of Montana's most sparsely populated counties in southeastern Montana. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Powder River County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. Very sparsely populated county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30077 · Deer Lodge

Powell County

Population 6,890 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Powell County is a rural county in western Montana (Deer Lodge is the county seat). No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Powell County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30079 · Terry

Prairie County

Population 1,095 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Prairie County is a very rural county in eastern Montana. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Prairie County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. Very sparsely populated rural county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30081 · Hamilton

Ravalli County

Population 44,821 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with Ravalli County Environmental Health. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Ravalli County administers cottage food registration locally through the county Environmental Health office (ravallicounty.gov). County maintains cottage food registration forms directly. Local ordinances in the City of Hamilton may require a business permit for home-based sales. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Ravalli County Environmental Health - Cottage Food Registration

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. Ravalli County confirmed to have its own cottage food registration page and registration form at ravallicounty.gov. One-time \$40 fee with county Environmental Health. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. Ravalli County is one of Montana's faster-growing counties (Bitterroot Valley). County-specific registration document confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://ravallicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4939/Cottage-Food-Registration>

<https://ravallicounty.gov>

<https://ravallicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4939/Cottage-Food-Registration>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30083 · Sidney

Richland County

Population 10,803 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Richland County is an oil and agriculture county in eastern Montana (Sidney near the ND border). No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Richland County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30085 · Wolf Point

Roosevelt County

Population 11,303 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration. For Native Americans living on Fort Peck Indian Reservation, contact tribal environmental health office for applicable requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Roosevelt County includes the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. For residents on tribal lands, the tribal environmental health office determines the reviewing and registering agency for cottage food operations. Off-reservation residents follow standard MT county cottage food rules. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs; tribal law may apply on reservation

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. Roosevelt County encompasses portions of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation — MT cottage food guidance specifically notes tribal members should contact their tribal environmental health office. State baseline applied for non-tribal portions.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30087 · Forsyth

Rosebud County

Population 8,956 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration. For Native Americans on the Northern Cheyenne or Crow reservation portions, contact tribal environmental health office.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Rosebud County is a large southeastern Montana county that includes portions of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Tribal members should contact their tribal environmental health office for applicable registration requirements. For non-tribal residents, standard MT state rules apply. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs; tribal law may apply on reservation portions

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. Rosebud County includes portions of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. State baseline applied for non-tribal portions.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30089 · Thompson Falls

Sanders County

Population 12,134 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Sanders County is a rural forested county in northwestern Montana (Clark Fork River corridor). No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Sanders County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30091 · Plentywood

Sheridan County

Population 3,384 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Sheridan County is a rural agricultural county in northeastern Montana near the Canadian border. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Sheridan County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30093 · Butte

Silver Bow County

Population 34,200 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with Silver Bow County/City of Butte-Silver Bow Environmental Health. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Silver Bow County is a consolidated city-county government (Butte-Silver Bow). The county administers cottage food registration via its Environmental Health office and maintains county-specific cottage food permit forms. Local Butte-Silver Bow home occupation or business permit requirements may apply. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Butte-Silver Bow Consolidated Government - Environmental Health - Cottage Food

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. Silver Bow County (Butte-Silver Bow consolidated government) confirmed to have its own cottage food permit page and registration form at [co.silverbow.mt.us](https://www.co.silverbow.mt.us). One-time \$40 registration fee with county Environmental Health. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.silverbow.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/6911/Cottage-Food-Permit>

<https://www.co.silverbow.mt.us>

<https://www.co.silverbow.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/6911/Cottage-Food-Permit>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30095 · Columbus

Stillwater County

Population 9,642 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Stillwater County is a rural county in south-central Montana near Billings. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Stillwater County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30097 · Big Timber

Sweet Grass County

Population 3,737 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Sweet Grass County is a small rural county in south-central Montana along the Yellowstone River. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Sweet Grass County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30099 · Choteau

Teton County

Population 6,147 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Teton County is a rural agricultural county along the Rocky Mountain Front in north-central Montana. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Teton County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30101 · Shelby

Toole County

Population 4,976 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Toole County is a rural county in north-central Montana near the Canadian border. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Toole County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30103 · Hysham

Treasure County

Population 718 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Treasure County is one of Montana's least populous counties, located in southeastern Montana along the Yellowstone River. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Treasure County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. Very sparsely populated county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30105 · Glasgow

Valley County

Population 7,369 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Valley County is a rural agricultural county in northeastern Montana near Fort Peck Lake. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Valley County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30107 · Harlowton

Wheatland County

Population 2,085 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Wheatland County is a small agricultural county in central Montana. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found specific to cottage food. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Wheatland County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 30109 · Wibaux

Wibaux County

Population 969 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee with local Environmental Health Agency. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Montana. Farmers market sales exempt from registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Sanitary food preparation operations required
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or illness investigation only

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Wibaux County is one of Montana's smallest counties located in the far eastern corner bordering North Dakota. No formal county-level home occupation ordinances found. The 2021 Montana Local Food Choice Act preempts local restrictions on homemade food sales. Cottage food registration (\$40 one-time fee) administered through local Environmental Health office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer may deliver directly to purchaser.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law governs

RESEARCH NOTES

Montana Freedom-tier state. 2021 Local Food Choice Act preempts local ordinances statewide. No Wibaux County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found. Very small, rural county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

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