

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Linn County, Iowa?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

No

SALES CAP

—

IOWA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Iowa permits PDF](#)[Iowa cottage food law page](#)[Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals cottage food program](#)[Statute: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Linn County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Linn County, Iowa. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

No

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

No

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Iowa permits PDF →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf>

[Iowa cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/iowa>

[Permit page for this place →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/iowa/linn-county>

[Linn County cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/iowa/linn-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

Iowa registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: No. Cottage food direct-to-consumer sales only; however, a separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license allows indirect retail and wholesale sales of almost any food including perishables.

Iowa permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/iowa

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals: <https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

Statute: [Iowa Code §137F.1](#) / [§137F.20](#)

Zoning / home occupation

No. Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food in Linn County.

Health

No. No routine inspection; local government explicitly prohibited from adding restrictions (§137F.20(1))

Business license

No

Pickup / delivery

Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pathway allows broader sales including some retail.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

DIA licenses food establishments. Iowa cottage food is an exemption. A commissary or food establishment is licensed by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (or the local board of health where they inspect).

Official source: [Iowa DIAL food establishments](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.linncountyiowa.gov>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

SOURCES

<https://www.linncountyiowa.gov>

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

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

Linn County and nearby places

Regulation	Linn County	Johnson County	Benton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food exemption.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pat...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under exemption. From home, at farmers markets, events, roadside stands. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail ...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direc...	Iowa has two pathways: (1) cottage food exemption under §137F.20 — no license, no cap, direct sales only, most non-TCS foods including pH-t...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods including acidified foods if pH tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label	Non-TCS foods only under exemption. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch pH-tested (≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤...	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.
POPULATION	229,308	153,360	25,645

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

Iowa permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf

Iowa cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/iowa

Linn County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/iowa/linn-county