

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-06.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

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 Winneshiek County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Winneshiek 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

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Conditional

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/winneshiek-county>

Winneshiek County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/iowa/winneshiek-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

Conditional. Winneshiek County Zoning Ordinance §404.51 defines home occupation as an accessory residential use: must be carried on by a resident family member, clearly incidental and secondary to residential use, no more than 2 non-family employees, no exterior display or storage, maximum 1 flush-mounted sign not exceeding 3 sq ft, occupies no more than 50% of one floor, and causes no offensive noise, vibration, smoke, odor, or glare. Farmstead home occupations (§404.52) allow up to 1 sign not exceeding 12 sq ft. Cottage food businesses operating from a home in unincorporated Winneshiek County must comply with these provisions. Contact Winneshiek County Planning & Zoning to confirm permit requirements.

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

Health

No. No routine inspection. DIAL may investigate upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Iowa cottage food law requires direct sales from producer to consumer. Home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No wholesale or restaurant sales. Customer traffic at residence must remain incidental per county zoning §404.51.

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

<https://winneshiekcounty.iowa.gov>

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

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

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

Winneshiek County and nearby places

Regulation	Winneshiek County	Fayette County	Clayton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state or county rule, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during food production.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.	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	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Iowa cottage food law requires direct sales from producer to consumer. Home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No who...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa...	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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	Must operate from primary residence. No license or inspection required for cottage food. Only non-TCS foods. Direct sales to end consumer o...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe handling to prevent adulteration.	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.
POPULATION	20,027	19,650	17,549

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

Winneshiek County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/iowa/winneshiek-county