

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mendocino County

California · Ukiah · FIPS 06045 · Population 91,145 · Crosodo Index #658*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Mendocino County, California — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No specific state prohibition for cottage food; good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under California cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ California home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[California label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

CALIFORNIA: MENDOCINO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #658* · FIPS 06045 · Ukiah

Mendocino County

Population 91,145 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (California two-tier cottage food system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206/year cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411/year cap, requires home kitchen inspection). Only CDPH-approved foods list items may be sold. Food safety training required every 3 years. Mendocino County Environmental Health (Public Health) handles registrations and permits. Confirmed: Mendocino County offers a Cottage Food Permit through Environmental Health Consumer Protection. Local zoning preempted by California GOV §51035.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition for cottage food; good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (California GOV §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Mendocino County Cottage Food Permit registration through Environmental Health is the applicable requirement (mendocinocounty.gov/Home/Components/ServiceDirectory/ServiceDirectory/444/3680).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: home kitchen inspection required. Mendocino County Environmental Health administers via enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — California two-tier cottage food system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206/year cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411/year cap, requires home kitchen inspection). Only CDPH-approved foods list items may be sold. Food safety training required every 3 years. Mendocino County Environmental Health (Public Health) handles registrations and permits. Confirmed: Mendocino County offers a Cottage Food Permit through Environmental Health Consumer Protection. Local zoning preempted by California GOV §51035.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition for cottage food; good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement for Class A; Class B may involve county environmental health review. Digital submission to enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov required for new applications.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food safety training and general good manufacturing practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Only CDPH-approved non-PHF shelf-stable foods; must prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: home kitchen inspection required. Mendocino County Environmental Health administers via enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov .
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — California GOV §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Mendocino County Cottage Food Permit registration through Environmental Health is the applicable requirement (mendocinocounty.gov/Home/Components/ServiceDirectory/ServiceDirectory/444/3680).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within California). Class B: also allows retail stores and restaurants. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under California cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mendocino County Cottage Food Permit; Environmental Health Consumer Protection (mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/environmental-health/consumer-protection)

RESEARCH NOTES

Mendocino County confirmed to have a specific Cottage Food Permit through Environmental Health Consumer Protection (mendocinocounty.gov). The county is digitizing Consumer Protection and Land Use files; new applications must be submitted digitally to enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov. The county provides a Cottage Food Operation (CFO) Registration and Permitting Form and a CFO Self-Certification Checklist. County follows California state baseline for Class A/B classification. Mendocino County is in Northern California wine country with active agricultural and farmers market scene.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/environmental-health/consumer-protection>

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/Home/Components/ServiceDirectory/ServiceDirectory/444/3680>

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/environmental-health/consumer-protection>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/california/mendocino-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Mendocino County	Lake County	Tehama County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition for cottage food; good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.	Not specified but standard sanitation expected	Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and good manufacturing practice
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Conditional	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within California). Class B: also allows retail stores and restaurants. N...	Class A: direct sales from home or at community events within California. Class B: direct and indirect sales through retailers/restaurants ...	Class A: direct sales only including online and shipping within California. Class B: direct and indirect including retail stores and restau...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	California two-tier cottage food system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206/year cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ...	Class A (direct sales only): annual self-certification registration with Lake County Environmental Health required. Class B (direct + indir...	Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food s...
FOOD STORAGE	Only CDPH-approved non-PHF shelf-stable foods; must prevent contamination.	Shelf-stable non-PHF products; no acidified or low-acid canned foods	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only; approved foods list required
POPULATION	91,145	68,024	65,484

State context — California cottage food law

Mendocino County's rules sit on top of California's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Class B permit holders may sell indirectly through retail stores and restaurants statewide; Class A registrants are limited to direct sales only and may not sell through any retail or wholesale venue.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **California cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/california.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

State dept cottage food page: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

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

Questions about Mendocino County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/california/mendocino-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Mendocino County, California. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/california/mendocino-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise