

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# La Plata County

Colorado · Durango · FIPS 08067 · Population 55,983 ·  
Crosodo Index #1264\*

## STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Cottage Foods Act, amended 2022)

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## 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.

COLORADO: LA PLATA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1264\* · FIPS 08067 · Durango

# La Plata County

Population 55,983 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Cottage Foods Act, amended 2022) · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous, non-refrigerated foods only. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total). Direct sales only; no retail stores. CDPHE free registration required. Food handler certification course required (e.g., CSU Extension \$50, 3.5hr, or online ~\$10-15).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (La Plata County (unincorporated areas) does not require a general business license for cottage food operations per county licensing page. However, businesses operating in Durango city limits must obtain a Durango business license (processing fee \$30 one-time plus annual fee based on employees). Bayfield and Ignacio have similar requirements. La Plata County Planning Dept. may require land use permit review for home-based businesses under county land use code (chapters 62-90). Phone: La Plata County Planning 970-382-6263.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (CDPHE may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous, non-refrigerated foods only. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total). Direct sales only; no retail stores. CDPHE free registration required. Food handler certification course required (e.g., CSU Extension \$50, 3.5hr, or online ~\$10-15).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Covered under required food safety course.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-refrigerated shelf-stable products only. Allowed: baked goods, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or below), jams/jellies/preserves, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods, whole eggs (under 250 dozen/month).

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — CDPHE may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — La Plata County (unincorporated areas) does not require a general business license for cottage food operations per county licensing page. However, businesses operating in Durango city limits must obtain a Durango business license (processing fee \$30 one-time plus annual fee based on employees). Bayfield and Ignacio have similar requirements. La Plata County Planning Dept. may require land use permit review for home-based businesses under county land use code (chapters 62-90). Phone: La Plata County Planning 970-382-6263.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only. Person-to-person, bake sales, farmers markets, neighbors, events. No sales to retail stores or restaurants. Commercial kitchens available at La Plata County Fairgrounds and Manna Soup Kitchen in Durango if scaling up.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in CO statute; cottage food operations are personal operations.

### Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; La Plata County Land Use Code Chapters 62-90; Durango business license requirements

#### RESEARCH NOTES

La Plata County includes Durango, a recreation-focused mountain town. Durango city limits requires a local business license (\$30 one-time + annual fee based on employees). Unincorporated La Plata County does not require a general business license but may require land use review. CSU Extension in La Plata County offers the required food safety certification course. The Durango Herald article (2017) confirmed Durango license requirements; these are likely still current. HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act, 2026) pending and would expand CO cottage foods significantly.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/administration/licensing.php>

<https://www.lpcgov.org>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

<https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/administration/licensing.php>

<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/what-does-it-take-to-turn-your-cooking-into-a-cottage-food/>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/la-plata-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	La Plata County	Archuleta County	Dolores County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	No specific CO state or La Plata County rule.	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	False	False
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only. Person-to-person, bake sales, farmers markets, neighbors, events. No sales to retail stores or restaurants. Commer...	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Possibly	Possibly
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Possibly; Town of Pagosa Springs may require a town business license for operations within town limits; confirm with Town of Pagosa Springs	Unlikely; very rural county; confirm with Dolores County or Town of Dove Creek
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous, non-refrigerated foods only. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total). Direct sales only; no retail stores. CD...	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	Non-refrigerated shelf-stable products only. Allowed: baked goods, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or below), jams/jellies/preserves, spi...	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)
POPULATION	55,983	13,509	2,329

## State context — Colorado cottage food law

La Plata County’s rules sit on top of Colorado’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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<p><b>STATUTE</b> C.R.S. §25-4-1614</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes</p> <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint</p> <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b> No — Products cannot be resold; producers must sell directly to consumers but may designate a representative to sell on their behalf. Sales through restaurants or retail stores are not permitted, though the health department may allow direct sales at those locations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> Tiered (see notes)</p> <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)</p> <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes</p>
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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Colorado cottage food law report](#).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a\\_158\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf)

State dept cottage food page: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

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

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## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss La Plata County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/la-plata-county-discuss>

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