

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Lake County

Colorado · Leadville · FIPS 08065 · Population 7,369 ·  
Crosodo Index #3061\*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; [cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods)

STATE TIER

**Great**

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

**Tiered (see notes)**

CONFIDENCE

**MEDIUM**

LAST VERIFIED

**2026-05-06**

**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: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3061\* · FIPS 08065 · Leadville

# Lake County

Population 7,369 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; [cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods) · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

True

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

False

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Possibly (Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Lake County encompasses the City of Leadville (only incorporated municipality). Leadville may have city zoning provisions on home-based businesses. Producers should verify with Lake County or City of Leadville whether a home occupation permit is needed.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

True

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

False (Complaint-based only per state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614))

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

True

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

False

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

**WATER SUPPLY**

Potable water required; private well users should verify water quality; highest county seat in the US (Leadville at 10,152 ft)

**HANDWASHING**

Required per CO cottage food food safety training requirements

**FOOD STORAGE**

Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

False — Complaint-based only per state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614)

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**

Possibly — Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Lake County encompasses the City of Leadville (only incorporated municipality). Leadville may have city zoning provisions on home-based businesses. Producers should verify with Lake County or City of Leadville whether a home occupation permit is needed.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**

Possibly; City of Leadville may require a city business license for operations within city limits; confirm with City of Leadville

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Sole proprietor or LLC of 2 or fewer owners; no additional employees per state law

### Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Foods Act); Lake County Land Use Regulations

#### RESEARCH NOTES

No Lake County-specific cottage food ordinance found beyond state baseline. High-altitude county; Leadville is the highest incorporated city in the US at 10,152 ft. Historic mining and skiing area. Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type.

---

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lakecountyco.com/public-health>

<https://www.lakecountyco.com/planning>

<https://www.lakecountyco.com>

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

<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/cottage-foods-checklist.pdf>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lake County	Chaffee County	Park County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	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	No specific county rule; standard CO cottage food applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	False	False	Upon-complaint only
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	No specific county restriction found; state disclaimer placard required at point of sale
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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	Direct-to-consumer only; no wholesale; may sell from residence, farmers markets, online (CO only)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Possibly	Possibly	Likely; verify with Park County Planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Possibly; City of Leadville may require a city business license for operations within city limits; confirm with City of Leadville	Possibly; City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista may require local business licenses for operations within their limits	Possibly; verify with Park County Clerk
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	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)	Standard sanitary storage; no additional county requirement found
POPULATION	7,403	19,564	17,597

## State context — Colorado cottage food law

Lake 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.

---

<b>STATUTE</b> C.R.S. §25-4-1614	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> Tiered (see notes)
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<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.	

---

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Colorado cottage food law report](#).

---

### 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/>

---

## Questions?

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

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

---