

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Larimer County

Colorado · Fort Collins · FIPS 08069 · Population 359,363 ·
Crosodo Index #1677*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
C.R.S. §25-4-1614	Great	Tiered (see notes)	HIGH	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: LARIMER COUNTY

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Larimer County

Population 359,363 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Colorado state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) requires production in the home kitchen. Free CDPHE registration required. Food handler course (e.g., CSU Extension \$50/3.5hr or equivalent) required before selling. Larimer County unincorporated areas follow county Land Use Code home occupation rules. Fort Collins (the county seat and largest city) is an incorporated municipality with its own separate home occupation requirements that differ from county rules — residents in Fort Collins must follow city rules, not county rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state or county-specific cottage food pet restriction found; CDPHE general guidance applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (LARIMER COUNTY (unincorporated): Home occupations require a Registration Certificate submitted to Larimer County Planning (planning@larimer.org or 200 W Oak Street, Fort Collins, 3rd Floor). Two tiers: (1) Limited Home Occupation — up to 50% of home interior (max 800 sq ft including basement/attached garage), max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Registration Certificate only; (2) Large Home Occupation — 800-1,200 sq ft interior, up to 800 sq ft outdoor storage, max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Administrative Special Review plus Registration Certificate. Operator must occupy the residence as primary dwelling. Max 1 non-resident employee at the site. On-site sales events allowed up to 30 per calendar year for products made on-site. FORT COLLINS (city, separate rules): Home Occupation License required (\$25 fee, valid 2 years); submit to zoning@fcgov.com or Development Review Center, 281 North College Avenue. Max 50% of home for business; max 1 non-resident employee; no retail sales except incidental to services; no exterior storage beyond principal residence; limited signage (max 2-4 sq ft). Contact: 970-498-7860 (Larimer County Clerk), Fort Collins Zoning at fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Colorado state law allows CDPHE inspection upon complaint. No routine inspections for registered cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Colorado state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) requires production in the home kitchen. Free CDPHE registration required. Food handler course (e.g., CSU Extension \$50/3.5hr or equivalent) required before selling. Larimer County unincorporated areas follow county Land Use Code home occupation rules. Fort Collins (the county seat and largest city) is an incorporated municipality with its own separate home occupation requirements that differ from county rules — residents in Fort Collins must follow city rules, not county rules.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific cottage food pet restriction found; CDPHE general guidance applies.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state cottage food standards; no additional county overlay found.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state cottage food standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored properly to prevent contamination per state guidance; no county-specific overlay beyond state standards.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Colorado state law allows CDPHE inspection upon complaint. No routine inspections for registered cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — LARIMER COUNTY (unincorporated): Home occupations require a Registration Certificate submitted to Larimer County Planning (planning@larimer.org or 200 W Oak Street, Fort Collins, 3rd Floor). Two tiers: (1) Limited Home Occupation — up to 50% of home interior (max 800 sq ft including basement/attached garage), max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Registration Certificate only; (2) Large Home Occupation — 800-1,200 sq ft interior, up to 800 sq ft outdoor storage, max 10 vehicle trips/day, requires Administrative Special Review plus Registration Certificate. Operator must occupy the residence as primary dwelling. Max 1 non-resident employee at the site. On-site sales events allowed up to 30 per calendar year for products made on-site. FORT COLLINS (city, separate rules): Home Occupation License required (\$25 fee, valid 2 years); submit to zoning@fcgov.com or Development Review Center, 281 North College Avenue. Max 50% of home for business; max 1 non-resident employee; no retail sales except incidental to services; no exterior storage beyond principal residence; limited signage (max 2-4 sq ft). Contact: 970-498-7860 (Larimer County Clerk), Fort Collins Zoning at fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Colorado cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales only (no wholesale, no retail stores). Products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (with in-person/mail delivery). Home sales and customer pickup from residence are permitted under state law. Larimer County limits on-site retail sales events to 30 per calendar year for home-produced goods. Fort Collins prohibits off-site retail storage; on-site sales must be incidental to services provided.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Larimer County unincorporated: 1 non-resident employee at the site (plus any number of resident occupants). Fort Collins: 1 non-resident employee or co-worker at the site.

Relevant county code

Larimer County Land Use Code §3.4.7.B (Home Occupations); Fort Collins Land Use Code Article 4, Section 4.3.1(G); C.R.S. §25-4-1614

RESEARCH NOTES

Larimer County (pop. ~359K, county seat Fort Collins) has well-documented home occupation rules. The county's official website ([larimer.gov/planning/accessory-home-occupations](https://www.larimer.gov/planning/accessory-home-occupations)) provides detailed, current information on the two-tier home occupation classification system. The official Larimer County home occupation handout (updated March 11, 2022) and the county planning department's FAQ page confirm the Registration Certificate process, space limits, vehicle trip limits, and the 30-events-per-year on-site sales rule. Fort Collins is a separate incorporated city (pop. ~168K) with its own Home Occupation License (\$25, 2-year validity) administered through the City Zoning Division — CityRuleLookup (verified 9 months ago) and the official [fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness](https://www.fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness) page both confirm these rules. Key distinction: Fort Collins explicitly prohibits 'no retail sales from the site other than incidental sales related to services provided' which may limit direct cottage food sales from the Fort Collins home address; producers in Fort Collins likely need to sell at farmers markets rather than from home. Colorado state cottage food law requires CDPHE registration and food handler certification. The \$10,000 per-product annual cap (not total revenue) applies statewide under current law; HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act) pending as of 2026 would expand allowances if enacted. Note: 'value-added agriculture' is expressly prohibited as a home occupation in Larimer County — producers should verify their specific products qualify under standard cottage food (not value-added ag) classification.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.larimer.gov>

<https://www.larimer.gov/planning/accessory-home-occupations>

<https://fcgov.com/zoning/homebusiness>

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

https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2022/home_occupations_handout.pdf

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/larimer-county-co>

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

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Larimer 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.

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

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 Larimer County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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