

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Benewah County

Idaho · Saint Maries · FIPS 16009 · Population 9,345 ·  
Crosodo Index #679\*

## STATE BASELINE

IDAPA 16.02.19 (Idaho Food Code, cottage food provisions)

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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.

IDAHO: BENEWAH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #679\* · FIPS 16009 · Saint Maries

# Benewah County

Population 9,345 · State baseline: IDAPA 16.02.19 (Idaho Food Code, cottage food provisions) ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must operate from primary residence kitchen. No registration or inspection required at state level. Only non-potentially hazardous foods allowed (no acidified foods). Direct sales only to end consumers in Idaho. No wholesale, retail store, or restaurant sales permitted.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state-level pet restriction for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during production.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Benewah County is a small rural county in northern Idaho’s panhandle. Idaho counties typically require a home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Business must be secondary to residential use, operated by a resident, limited exterior signage, and limited customer traffic. Contact Benewah County Planning at (208) 245-3212 for specific zoning requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection. Panhandle Health District (serving Benewah County) may investigate upon complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** Yes — Must operate from primary residence kitchen. No registration or inspection required at state level. Only non-potentially hazardous foods allowed (no acidified foods). Direct sales only to end consumers in Idaho. No wholesale, retail store, or restaurant sales permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** No

**PET RESTRICTIONS** No specific state-level pet restriction for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during production.

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required. No additional testing requirements at state level.

**HANDWASHING** Standard good hygiene practices expected; no specific statutory handwashing requirement for cottage food.

**FOOD STORAGE** Products must be stored at producer’s primary residence; safe handling guidelines apply.

## Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** No — No routine inspection. Panhandle Health District (serving Benewah County) may investigate upon complaint.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** Conditional — Benewah County is a small rural county in northern Idaho’s panhandle. Idaho counties typically require a home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Business must be secondary to residential use, operated by a resident, limited exterior signage, and limited customer traffic. Contact Benewah County Planning at (208) 245-3212 for specific zoning requirements.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Idaho cottage food allows direct sales to consumers; home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No mail order or internet sales under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law. County home occupation rules typically restrict non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Benewah County Zoning Ordinance (unincorporated areas); contact Benewah County for current text.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Benewah County is a small rural northern Idaho panhandle county. No specific county zoning ordinance text located. Idaho cottage food governed by IDAPA 16.02.19; direct sales only; no acidified foods. Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.benewahcounty.net>

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/food-safety/cottage-food-operations>

<https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/160219.pdf>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Benevah County	Latah County	Shoshone County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level pet restriction for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during production.	No specific state-level pet restriction for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during production.	No specific state-level pet restriction for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Idaho cottage food allows direct sales to consumers; home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No mail order or interne...	Idaho cottage food allows direct sales to consumers; home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No mail order or interne...	Idaho cottage food allows direct sales to consumers; home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No mail order or interne...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must operate from primary residence kitchen. No registration or inspection required at state level. Only non-potentially hazardous foods al...	Must operate from primary residence kitchen. No registration or inspection required at state level. Only non-potentially hazardous foods al...	Must operate from primary residence kitchen. No registration or inspection required at state level. Only non-potentially hazardous foods al...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored at producer's primary residence; safe handling guidelines apply.	Products must be stored at producer's primary residence; safe handling guidelines apply.	Products must be stored at producer's primary residence; safe handling guidelines apply.
POPULATION	9,345	41,254	12,526

## State context — Idaho cottage food law

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

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<b>STATUTE</b> IDAPA 16.02.19 (Idaho Food Code, cottage food provisions)	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> No — Idaho prohibits wholesale, restaurant, and retail store sales; only direct-to-consumer in-person sales at home, farmers markets, events, online (pickup/delivery), and roadside stands are allowed.	

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/160219.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/services-programs/food-safety/cottage-food-operations>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/idaho/benewah-county-discuss>

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