

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Elmore County

Idaho · Mountain Home · FIPS 16039 · Population 27,559 ·  
Crosodo Index #667\*

## 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: ELMORE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #667\* · FIPS 16039 · Mountain Home

## Elmore County

Population 27,559 · 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 (Elmore County includes Mountain Home AFB and has a more developed planning department than some Idaho rural counties. Home occupations in unincorporated areas typically require a home occupation permit; business must be secondary to residential use, operated by a resident, no exterior commercial signage, limited customer traffic. Contact Elmore County Planning & Zoning at (208) 587-2025 for specific permit requirements.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Central District Health (serving Elmore 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 &amp; permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. Central District Health (serving Elmore County) may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Elmore County includes Mountain Home AFB and has a more developed planning department than some Idaho rural counties. Home occupations in unincorporated areas typically require a home occupation permit; business must be secondary to residential use, operated by a resident, no exterior commercial signage, limited customer traffic. Contact Elmore County Planning & Zoning at (208) 587-2025 for specific permit 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

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

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Elmore County is a mid-size south-central Idaho county with Mountain Home AFB. 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.elmorecounty.org>

<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/elmore-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Elmore County	Blaine County	Boise 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	27,559	23,048	7,832

## State context — Idaho cottage food law

Elmore 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>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
IDAPA 16.02.19 (Idaho Food Code, cottage food provisions)	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	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 Elmore County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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