

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gem County

Idaho · Emmett · FIPS 16045 · Population 18,700 · Crosodo Index #689*

STATE BASELINE

IDAPA 16.02.19 (Idaho Food Code, cottage food provisions)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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: GEM COUNTY

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Gem County

Population 18,700 · 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 (Gem County is a growing western Idaho county near Boise metro. 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 Gem County Planning & Zoning at (208) 365-4561 for specific permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Central District Health (serving Gem 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. Central District Health (serving Gem County) may investigate upon complaint.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Conditional — Gem County is a growing western Idaho county near Boise metro. 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 Gem County Planning & Zoning at (208) 365-4561 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

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Gem County is a growing western Idaho county in the Treasure Valley area. 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.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.gemcounty.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/gem-county-discuss>

State context — Idaho cottage food law

Gem 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.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
IDAPA 16.02.19 (Idaho Food Code, cottage food provisions)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
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.	

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

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/>

Questions?

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

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