

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Alexander County

Illinois · Cairo · FIPS 17003 · Population 5,765 · Crosodo
Index #1709*

STATE BASELINE

410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)

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.

ILLINOIS: ALEXANDER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1709* · FIPS 17003 · Cairo

Alexander County

Population 5,765 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4) ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must operate from primary residence. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Illinois uses a prohibited-list approach - virtually all non-prohibited foods allowed including pickles, salsas, condiments, and most baked goods. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online sales within Illinois permitted for non-perishables.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state statute on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alexander County is a small, rural, economically distressed county in far southern Illinois (pop. ~5,800). No specific Alexander County home occupation zoning ordinance was found in research. Illinois state law (410 ILCS 625/4(d)) notes that local health departments may impose additional requirements; however, state law generally preempts contradictory municipal restrictions on cottage food sales. Operators should register with the Alexander County Health Department and confirm whether any county or Cairo city zoning permits are required for home-based food businesses.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (IDPH or local health department may inspect upon complaint. Routine inspections not required for registered cottage food operators.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must operate from primary residence. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Illinois uses a prohibited-list approach - virtually all non-prohibited foods allowed including pickles, salsas, condiments, and most baked goods. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online sales within Illinois permitted for non-perishables.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state statute on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no additional testing specified for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required per food handler certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe food handling practices required per CFPM training.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — IDPH or local health department may inspect upon complaint. Routine inspections not required for registered cottage food operators.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alexander County is a small, rural, economically distressed county in far southern Illinois (pop. ~5,800). No specific Alexander County home occupation zoning ordinance was found in research. Illinois state law (410 ILCS 625/4(d)) notes that local health departments may impose additional requirements; however, state law generally preempts contradictory municipal restrictions on cottage food sales. Operators should register with the Alexander County Health Department and confirm whether any county or Cairo city zoning permits are required for home-based food businesses.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Illinois cottage food allows direct sales; home pickup is permitted. Online sales with local delivery permitted for non-perishables. No out-of-state shipping.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law. Local zoning may restrict non-resident employees in home-based businesses.

Relevant county code

Alexander County zoning regulations; contact Alexander County for current text.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alexander County is one of Illinois' most economically distressed counties, located at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. No specific county zoning text for home occupations was found. Illinois cottage food law (410 ILCS 625/4) requires registration with local health department, CFPM certification, and uses a prohibited-list approach. State law generally preempts contradictory local restrictions. Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alexandercountyil.gov>

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

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

State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

STATUTE 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Illinois prohibits sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale; direct in-state sales are allowed anywhere including home, online, farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/alexander-county-discuss>
