

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Boone County

Illinois · Belvidere · FIPS 17007 · Population 53,459 · Crosodo Index #1216*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

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: BOONE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1216* · FIPS 17007 · Belvidere

Boone County

Population 53,459 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4) ·

MEDIUM

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

Yes (Prohibited-list approach: most foods permitted including baked goods, candies, condiments, jams, pickles, salsas, sauces, fermented foods, snacks, beverages. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Direct sales only within Illinois.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific IL state or Boone County rule.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Registration required with Boone County Health Department (up to \$50/year). Boone County is in the northern Illinois area near Rockford. Contact Boone County Health Department in Belvidere.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Boone County Health Department may inspect upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Prohibited-list approach: most foods permitted including baked goods, candies, condiments, jams, pickles, salsas, sauces, fermented foods, snacks, beverages. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Direct sales only within Illinois.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific IL state or Boone County rule.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	Covered under CFPM certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-perishable items can be shipped within IL. Acidified and fermented foods require special documentation.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Boone County Health Department may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Registration required with Boone County Health Department (up to \$50/year). Boone County is in the northern Illinois area near Rockford. Contact Boone County Health Department in Belvidere.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only within Illinois. Online sales allowed; non-perishable items shipped within IL only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in IL statute.

Relevant county code

410 ILCS 625/4; registration with Boone County Health Department

RESEARCH NOTES

Boone County is a suburban/rural county near Rockford in northern Illinois. No county-specific overrides found. State baseline applies with registration through Boone County Health Department. IL Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) is notably stricter than most states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/boone-county-discuss>

State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

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