

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# DeKalb County

Illinois · Sycamore · FIPS 17037 · Population 100,686 ·  
Crosodo Index #1229\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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: DEKALB COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1229\* · FIPS 17037 · Sycamore

# DeKalb County

Population 100,686 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)

· MEDIUM

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

Yes (Illinois 'prohibited list' approach: operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Direct in-state sales only. Acidified/fermented foods require additional documentation.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation applies.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Sycamore and other municipalities in DeKalb County (including DeKalb city, home to Northern Illinois University) may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific DeKalb County cottage food ordinance identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-triggered. DeKalb County Health Department administers registration.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Illinois 'prohibited list' approach: operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Registration with local health department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Direct in-state sales only. Acidified/fermented foods require additional documentation.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation applies.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing required per CFPM certification.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-prohibited foods only. Meat/poultry/fish/seafood, custard/cream pies with hazardous fillings, garlic in oil (unless acidified), low-acid canned foods, sprouts, raw cut leafy greens, alcoholic beverages, kombucha prohibited.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Complaint-triggered. DeKalb County Health Department administers registration.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Sycamore and other municipalities in DeKalb County (including DeKalb city, home to Northern Illinois University) may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific DeKalb County cottage food ordinance identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct in-state sales. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

**Relevant county code**

No specific DeKalb County code section identified. State law governs: 410 ILCS 625/4.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

DeKalb County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. DeKalb County is in the Chicago exurban area with NIU in DeKalb city. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

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

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

## State context — Illinois cottage food law

DeKalb 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b> 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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.	

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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