

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Knox County

Illinois · Galesburg · FIPS 17095 · Population 49,751 · Crosodo
Index #1201*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
410 ILCS 625/4	Great	—	MEDIUM	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: KNOX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1201* · FIPS 17095 · Galesburg

Knox County

Population 49,751 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Registration with Knox County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Acidified and fermented foods require special documentation (food safety plan and pH test).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Knox County and City of Galesburg may have home occupation zoning requirements. Recommend verifying with Knox County Planning/Zoning and City of Galesburg planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections may occur upon complaint. Knox County Health Department administers registration.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM-level) certification required. Registration with Knox County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Acidified and fermented foods require special documentation (food safety plan and pH test).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required through CFPM certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS for direct sales; perishable items may not be shipped.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections may occur upon complaint. Knox County Health Department administers registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Knox County and City of Galesburg may have home occupation zoning requirements. Recommend verifying with Knox County Planning/Zoning and City of Galesburg planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales from home, online, events, and farmers markets within Illinois. Non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

410 ILCS 625/4; Knox County zoning code

RESEARCH NOTES

Illinois has a highly permissive cottage food law. Registration with Knox County Health Department required. Knox County includes Galesburg (home of Carl Sandburg birthplace). No Knox County-specific cottage food ordinances found.

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/knox-county-discuss>

State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

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