

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# McHenry County

Illinois · Woodstock · FIPS 17111 · Population 311,133 ·  
Crosodo Index #1932\*

## STATE BASELINE

410 ILCS 625/4; no license required; no sales cap; food handler certificate required (ANAB-accredited); direct sales only; complaint-based inspection

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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: MCHENRY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1932\* · FIPS 17111 · Woodstock

# McHenry County

Population 311,133 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4; no license required; no sales cap; food handler certificate required (ANAB-accredited); direct sales only; complaint-based inspection · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (Non-TCS foods (prohibited list approach); ANAB-accredited food handler cert required; direct to consumer only; no retail sales to restaurants or grocery stores; labeling required)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (IL does not preempt local zoning. McHenry County municipalities (Woodstock, Crystal Lake, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local city/village planning)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (IL Dept of Public Health may investigate complaints)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Non-TCS foods (prohibited list approach); ANAB-accredited food handler cert required; direct to consumer only; no retail sales to restaurants or grocery stores; labeling required
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water at residence
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Proper handwashing required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — IL Dept of Public Health may investigate complaints
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — IL does not preempt local zoning. McHenry County municipalities (Woodstock, Crystal Lake, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local city/village planning
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, home sales, online with direct delivery permitted; no retail/wholesale
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

### RESEARCH NOTES

IL has no sales cap but restricts to direct sales only and requires food handler cert. McHenry County is exurban Chicago. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov>

<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/mchenry-county-discuss>

## State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

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

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