

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Adams County

Indiana · Decatur · FIPS 18001 · Population 36,584 · Crosodo
Index #2936*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
—	Great	—	MEDIUM	

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.

INDIANA: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2936* · FIPS 18001 · Decatur

Adams County

Population 36,584 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT —

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found that overrides state law. Indiana IC 16-42-5.3, Sec. 12 explicitly prohibits local government from requiring any licensure, certification, or inspection of home-based vendor foods. State law fully preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required; no registration/permit required. No sales cap. Indiana HB 1424 (signed March 2026, effective July 1, 2026) further loosens regulations; not yet in effect as of research date. Defaulting to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Adams County	Jay County	Wells County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	—	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	—	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	—	Not specified in state statute; proper sanitary procedures and good hygienic practices required.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	—	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	—	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	—	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	—	Products may be sold in-person, by telephone, or via the internet, and delivered to the end consumer in person, by mail, or by third-party ...	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed in person, by phone, online, or via third-party carrier within Indiana. No interstate shipping. No w...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	—	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	—	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	Must prepare food in the individual's primary residential home kitchen (or permanent structure on the same property). Only non-TCS (non-tim...	Indiana home-based vendor law (IC 16-42-5.3, amended 2022 via HEA 1149) allows sales of non-TCS foods from primary residence. No routine in...
FOOD STORAGE	—	Must use proper sanitary procedures; containers and packaging must be sanitized before use.	Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; proper sanitary storage required.
POPULATION	35,827	20,436	28,167

State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

STATUTE Ind. Code §16-42-5.2	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale are prohibited; producers may sell at events, farmers markets, home, online, and roadside stands only.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://iga.in.gov/laws/2022/ic/titles/016/articles/042/chapters/005.2>

State dept cottage food page: [https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-\(cottage-foods\)/](https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-(cottage-foods)/)

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/indiana/adams-county-discuss>
