

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Bartholomew County

Indiana · Columbus · FIPS 18005 · Population 82,371 ·  
Crosodo Index #2114\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Ind. Code §16-42-5.2	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.

## INDIANA: BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2114\* · FIPS 18005 · Columbus

# Bartholomew County

Population 82,371 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Same as all Indiana counties: no license required; food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) provided to local health department; non-PHF foods only; no acidified foods; direct sales within Indiana only.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Bartholomew County and the City of Columbus may have home occupation ordinances. Indiana law preempts local licensing/inspection for home-based vendors but local zoning may still apply. Check with Bartholomew County Planning or City of Columbus.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection. Indiana law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Local health dept may investigate upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Same as all Indiana counties: no license required; food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) provided to local health department; non-PHF foods only; no acidified foods; direct sales within Indiana only.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific statutory requirement.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific statutory requirement.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory requirement.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection. Indiana law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Local health dept may investigate upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Bartholomew County and the City of Columbus may have home occupation ordinances. Indiana law preempts local licensing/inspection for home-based vendors but local zoning may still apply. Check with Bartholomew County Planning or City of Columbus.
<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 sales from home, online within Indiana, at events and farmers markets permitted.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.

### Relevant county code

No Bartholomew County-specific cottage food code identified. Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 governs.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Bartholomew County (Columbus, IN) follows Indiana home-based vendor law. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bartholomew County	Johnson County	Brown County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.	No specific state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home, online within Indiana, at events and farmers markets permitted.	Sales from home, online, at farmers markets, roadside stands, events, and other direct-to-consumer venues. No wholesale or interstate sales.	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	—
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	—
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all Indiana counties: no license required; food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) provided to local health department; non-PHF ...	Indiana HEA 1149 (2022) allows home-based vendors to sell most nonperishable foods from home, online, at events, and other venues. Food han...	—
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.	Non-PHF foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.	—
POPULATION	82,371	161,952	15,513

## State context — Indiana cottage food law

Bartholomew 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b> Ind. Code §16-42-5.2	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No	<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 — Sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale are prohibited; producers may sell at events, farmers markets, home, online, and roadside stands only.	

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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