

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dearborn County

Indiana · Lawrenceburg · FIPS 18029 · Population 50,709 ·
Crosodo Index #1202*

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: DEARBORN COUNTY

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Dearborn County

Population 50,709 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Home kitchen required. Most nonperishable non-potentially hazardous foods allowed. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be provided to local health department. Direct-to-consumer sales only (home, online, events, farmers markets). No acidified foods, pickles in oxygen-sealed containers, salsas, sauces, ketchup, juices, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No specific Dearborn County cottage food ordinances found. Unincorporated areas and City of Lawrenceburg may have separate home occupation zoning requirements. Recommend verifying with Dearborn County Area Plan Commission.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection. Local health departments are preempted from adding licensing or inspection requirements. May inspect on complaint or foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Home kitchen required. Most nonperishable non-potentially hazardous foods allowed. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be provided to local health department. Direct-to-consumer sales only (home, online, events, farmers markets). No acidified foods, pickles in oxygen-sealed containers, salsas, sauces, ketchup, juices, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation required as part of food handler certification compliance.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and shelf-stable.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection. Local health departments are preempted from adding licensing or inspection requirements. May inspect on complaint or foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No specific Dearborn County cottage food ordinances found. Unincorporated areas and City of Lawrenceburg may have separate home occupation zoning requirements. Recommend verifying with Dearborn County Area Plan Commission.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed from home, online, events, and farmers markets within Indiana. State law preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for home-based vendors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2; HEA 1149 (2022); Dearborn County Area Plan Commission zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Indiana’s 2022 HEA 1149 created a new home-based vendor framework. Food handler certificate required. State preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. No Dearborn County-specific rules found. Dearborn County borders Ohio and Kentucky near Cincinnati metro area.

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)/)

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

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

State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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