

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Elkhart County

Indiana · Goshen · FIPS 18039 · Population 206,841 ·
Crosodo Index #525*

STATE BASELINE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Elkhart County, Indiana — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No explicit state-level pet restriction in Indiana home-based vendor statute. Standard food safety practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Indiana cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Indiana home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Indiana label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

INDIANA: ELKHART COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #525* · FIPS 18039 · Goshen

Elkhart County

Population 206,841 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Indiana home-based vendor law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted 2022 HEA 1149) allows sales of most non-PHF (non-potentially hazardous) foods from home, online, and at events. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required; must be provided to local health department. No sales cap. No routine inspection. State law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements for home-based vendors. Direct sales only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state-level pet restriction in Indiana home-based vendor statute. Standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Indiana state law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements for home-based food vendors. However, Elkhart County and municipalities (Goshen, Elkhart City, Mishawaka area, Nappanee) may still have general home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Elkhart County Plan Commission or relevant municipal zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Indiana state law (HEA 1149, 2022) preempts local government from adding licensing or inspection requirements for home-based vendors. No routine inspections. Local health department may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Indiana home-based vendor law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted 2022 HEA 1149) allows sales of most non-PHF (non-potentially hazardous) foods from home, online, and at events. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required; must be provided to local health department. No sales cap. No routine inspection. State law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements for home-based vendors. Direct sales only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state-level pet restriction in Indiana home-based vendor statute. Standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement documented for Indiana home-based vendor law.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required, which covers handwashing and hygiene. Certificate must be provided to local health department.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only; no refrigerated items. Standard GMP storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Indiana state law (HEA 1149, 2022) preempts local government from adding licensing or inspection requirements for home-based vendors. No routine inspections. Local health department may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Indiana state law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements for home-based food vendors. However, Elkhart County and municipalities (Goshen, Elkhart City, Mishawaka area, Nappanee) may still have general home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Elkhart County Plan Commission or relevant municipal zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Indiana home-based vendor law (2022) allows sales from home, online, farmers markets, and other venues. Home pickup and delivery permitted. No sales cap. Acidified foods remain prohibited (require separate food establishment license).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Indiana home-based vendor statute. Home occupation zoning may apply restrictions.

Relevant county code

Ind. Code §16-42-5.3 (operative home-based vendor section, enacted HEA 1149, 2022); Elkhart County Plan Commission zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Indiana state baseline applies. Elkhart County (county seat: Goshen) is in northern Indiana and is a major manufacturing/RV industry hub. Note: the operative statute is IC 16-42-5.3 (created by HEA 1149, 2022); the input cites IC 16-42-5.2 which is the prior farmers market vendor law. The 2022 law removed venue restrictions and preempted local licensing/inspection requirements. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, etc.) remain prohibited under this law. No county-specific URLs or overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.elkhartcounty.gov>

[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 about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/indiana/elkhart-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Elkhart County	St. Joseph County	Kosciusko County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state-level pet restriction in Indiana home-based vendor statute. Standard food safety practices apply.	Not specified; home kitchen must be clean and sanitary	Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Indiana home-based vendor law (2022) allows sales from home, online, farmers markets, and other venues. Home pickup and delivery permitted....	Direct-to-consumer only: home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, events. No wholesale, no consignment, no restaurant sales.	Direct sales from home, online within Indiana, at events and farmers markets permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Indiana home-based vendor law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted 2022 HEA 1149) allows sales of most non-PHF (non-potentially hazardous) foods from hom...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must have ANSI-accredited food handler certificate provided to local health department. Sales are dir...	Same as all Indiana counties: no license required; food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) provided to local health department; non-PHF ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only; no refrigerated items. Standard GMP storage practices.	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated finished products	No specific statutory requirement.
POPULATION	206,841	272,388	80,442

State context — Indiana cottage food law

Elkhart 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/indiana.

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 about Elkhart County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/indiana/elkhart-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Elkhart County, Indiana. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/indiana/elkhart-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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