

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Hancock County

Indiana · Greenfield · FIPS 18059 · Population 80,170 ·  
Crosodo Index #1221\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Ind. Code §16-42-5.3	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: HANCOCK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1221\* · FIPS 18059 · Greenfield

# Hancock County

Population 80,170 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.3 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must prepare food in the individual’s primary residential home kitchen. Only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods allowed. Whole eggs, traditional pickles (not oxygen-sealed), and whole chickens/rabbits raised by the vendor also allowed with restrictions.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state statute; good hygienic practices required.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (State law (IC 16-42-5.3 Sec. 12) expressly prohibits local governments from requiring licensure, certification, or inspection of home-based vendor foods. However, local zoning ordinances for home-based businesses may still apply. Hancock County zoning should be verified directly with the county for any home occupation requirements unrelated to food safety.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (State statute expressly prohibits local governments from requiring inspection; state department may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must prepare food in the individual’s primary residential home kitchen. Only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods allowed. Whole eggs, traditional pickles (not oxygen-sealed), and whole chickens/rabbits raised by the vendor also allowed with restrictions.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state statute; good hygienic practices required.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; public water supply typical for residential use.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Proper handwashing required per IC 16-42-5.3 sanitary procedures.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Must use proper sanitary procedures; containers and packaging must be sanitized.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — State statute expressly prohibits local governments from requiring inspection; state department may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — State law (IC 16-42-5.3 Sec. 12) expressly prohibits local governments from requiring licensure, certification, or inspection of home-based vendor foods. However, local zoning ordinances for home-based businesses may still apply. Hancock County zoning should be verified directly with the county for any home occupation requirements unrelated to food safety.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Products may be sold in-person, online, shipped within Indiana, and delivered to the end consumer. No sales to warehouses, retail food establishments, or wholesalers. All sales must be direct to the end consumer.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Operation must be conducted by the home-based vendor; no employee restrictions specified in the state cottage food statute, but state law limits to the individual vendor's primary residence.

### Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found; state law preempts local food safety regulation of HBVs.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

State law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted 2022 HEA 1149) explicitly preempts local governments from requiring licensure or inspection of home-based vendors (HBVs). The Indiana HBV Handbook 2025 confirms that local zoning ordinances unrelated to food safety may still apply; vendors are encouraged to contact their local municipality to verify zoning. Hancock County Health Department administers the required ANSI-accredited food handler certificate. No county-specific cottage food overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no specific county ordinance found).

#### 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)/)

<https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/files/Indiana-Home-Based-Vendor-Handbook-2.pdf>

<https://www.hancockin.gov/224/Food-Establishment-Permit-Application>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hancock County	Madison County	Hamilton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; good hygienic practices required.	Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.	Good sanitation practices required; no specific state pet rule but kitchen cleanliness standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Products may be sold in-person, online, shipped within Indiana, and delivered to the end consumer. No sales to warehouses, retail food esta...	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and other venues per 2022 expanded state law.	In-person, telephone, internet sales allowed; delivery in-person, by mail, or third-party carrier within Indiana only; not for resale
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must prepare food in the individual's primary residential home kitchen. Only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods allowe...	Non-potentially hazardous foods produced at the individual's primary residence. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) must be provided...	Food prepared at producer's primary residence only; non-TCS foods only; ANAB-accredited food handler certificate required; label must state...
FOOD STORAGE	Must use proper sanitary procedures; containers and packaging must be sanitized.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Stored in food-safe containers.	Stored in sanitary conditions at residence
POPULATION	80,170	130,545	349,527

## State context — Indiana cottage food law

Hancock 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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### STATUTE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2

### ANNUAL SALES CAP

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### 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.

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

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

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