

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Johnson County

Indiana · Franklin · FIPS 18081 · Population 161,952 · Crosodo  
Index #1994\*

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: JOHNSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1994\* · FIPS 18081 · Franklin

# Johnson County

Population 161,952 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Indiana HEA 1149 (2022) allows home-based vendors to sell most nonperishable foods from home, online, at events, and other venues. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be provided to local health department. No registration or inspection required. State law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Direct sales only — no wholesale/catering.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Indiana state law preempts local licensing and inspection requirements for home-based vendors (IC 16-42-5.3). Johnson County may have home occupation permit requirements under local zoning for other aspects of operating a business from home, but cannot add licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Local health department may inspect upon complaint. State preempts local licensing requirements but not all inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Indiana HEA 1149 (2022) allows home-based vendors to sell most nonperishable foods from home, online, at events, and other venues. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be provided to local health department. No registration or inspection required. State law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Direct sales only — no wholesale/catering.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement under Indiana cottage food law.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Adequate handwashing facility required per food handler training standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-PHF foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Local health department may inspect upon complaint. State preempts local licensing requirements but not all inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Indiana state law preempts local licensing and inspection requirements for home-based vendors (IC 16-42-5.3). Johnson County may have home occupation permit requirements under local zoning for other aspects of operating a business from home, but cannot add licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, online, at farmers markets, roadside stands, events, and other direct-to-consumer venues. No wholesale or interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

### Relevant county code

Johnson County Zoning Ordinance; Ind. Code §16-42-5.3

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Indiana HEA 1149 (2022) is the operative law (creates IC §16-42-5.3). No Johnson County-specific cottage food code identified. State preemption is strong for licensing/inspection but not zoning.

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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)/)

<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/johnson-county-discuss>

## State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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

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