

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Adair County

Iowa · Greenfield · FIPS 19001 · Population 7,152 · Crosodo
Index #532*

STATE BASELINE

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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.

IOWA: ADAIR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #532* · FIPS 19001 · Greenfield

Adair County

Population 7,152 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (No license, registration, or inspection required under the Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Producers may sell non-TCS foods including baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested ($\text{pH} \leq 4.6$) or water-activity tested ($\text{Aw} \leq 0.85$) and production date is labeled. Direct sales only. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Adair County unincorporated area home occupation rules follow county zoning ordinance. Typical Iowa rural county standards apply; business must be incidental to residential use, no exterior evidence of commercial activity, limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §414.33 (city home-based business) preempts city-level restrictions; county zoning governs unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under the Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Producers may sell non-TCS foods including baked goods, candies, condiments, dried goods, pastries, preserves, and snacks. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-tested ($\text{pH} \leq 4.6$) or water-activity tested ($\text{Aw} \leq 0.85$) and production date is labeled. Direct sales only. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) expressly preempts local governments from adding restrictions.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific private water testing required under Iowa cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing practices expected; no formal county requirement beyond state food safety guidance.

FOOD STORAGE

Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the exemption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. Iowa DIAL may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Adair County unincorporated area home occupation rules follow county zoning ordinance. Typical Iowa rural county standards apply; business must be incidental to residential use, no exterior evidence of commercial activity, limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §414.33 (city home-based business) preempts city-level restrictions; county zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, events. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under the cottage food exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Iowa cottage food law; home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (state preemption of local cottage food restrictions); Adair County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. Iowa Code §137F.20 expressly preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations beyond state law. No Adair County-specific cottage food ordinance found. County zoning may require a home occupation permit for the business aspect but cannot add food safety restrictions beyond state law. The Iowa DIAL reorganization (2023) renamed the agency but did not change cottage food rules. Medium confidence because county zoning ordinance text was not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.adaircountyiowa.org>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Adair County	Adams County	Audubon County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roadside stands, events. No wholesal...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, roadside stands, events allowed. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under c...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	No license, registration, or inspection required under the Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Producers may sell non-TCS foods includi...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Allowed foods: non-TCS items including baked...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...
FOOD STORAGE	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the exemption.	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the exemption.	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.
POPULATION	7,152	3,704	5,481

State context — Iowa cottage food law

Adair County's rules sit on top of Iowa's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
Limited (see notes) — Cottage food direct-to-consumer sales only; however, a separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license allows indirect retail and wholesale sales of almost any food including perishables.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/iowa/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/iowa/adair-county-discuss>
