

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Adams County

Iowa · Corning · FIPS 19003 · Population 3,704 · Crosodo Index #531*

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: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #531* · FIPS 19003 · Corning

Adams County

Population 3,704 · 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 Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Allowed foods: non-TCS items including baked goods, candies, dried goods, preserves, snacks. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with labeled production date. 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 (Adams County unincorporated area home occupation rules follow county zoning ordinance. Typical Iowa rural county standards: business incidental to residential use, no exterior commercial evidence, limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Allowed foods: non-TCS items including baked goods, candies, dried goods, preserves, snacks. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with labeled production date. 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.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Adams County unincorporated area home occupation rules follow county zoning ordinance. Typical Iowa rural county standards: business incidental to residential use, no exterior commercial evidence, limited customer traffic. Iowa Code §137F.20(1) preempts food-specific restrictions.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, roadside stands, events allowed. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under 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; Adams County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa state baseline applies. §137F.20 preempts local cottage food restrictions. No Adams County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Medium confidence — county zoning text not directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.adamscountyiowa.gov>

<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/adams-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Adams County	Adair County	Cass 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. Home pickup, farmers markets, roadside stands, events allowed. No wholesale or retail indirect sales under c...	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 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 Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Allowed foods: non-TCS items including baked...	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 (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	3,704	7,152	13,193

State context — Iowa cottage food law

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

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