

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dallas County

Iowa · Adel · FIPS 19049 · Population 100,367 · Crosodo
Index #739*

STATE BASELINE

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

STATE TIER

Good

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.

IOWA: DALLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #739* · FIPS 19049 · Adel

Dallas County

Population 100,367 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, including pH-tested acidified foods. No food handler certification required. Iowa statute explicitly prohibits local government from adding restrictions. A separate HFPE pathway allows broader foods with registration.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Iowa law explicitly prohibits local government from restricting cottage food operations. Dallas County is in the Des Moines metro area and includes fast-growing communities (Waukee, West Des Moines portions). Local zoning/home occupation rules may apply to the business operation aspect, but production restrictions are preempted.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections for cottage food exemption.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Iowa's cottage food exemption (§137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, including pH-tested acidified foods. No food handler certification required. Iowa statute explicitly prohibits local government from adding restrictions. A separate HFPE pathway allows broader foods with registration.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing practices required.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed with pH test (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85) and production date on label. Perishable baked goods, low-acid untested canned foods, juices, meat jerkies prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspections for cottage food exemption.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Iowa law explicitly prohibits local government from restricting cottage food operations. Dallas County is in the Des Moines metro area and includes fast-growing communities (Waukee, West Des Moines portions). Local zoning/home occupation rules may apply to the business operation aspect, but production restrictions are preempted.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only under cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Dallas County code section identified. State law governs: Iowa Code §137F.20.

RESEARCH NOTES

Dallas County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Dallas County is the fastest-growing county in Iowa (Des Moines western suburbs — Waukee, West Des Moines). Iowa's explicit local preemption strengthens cottage food operators' position. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dallascounty.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<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/dallas-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dallas County	Warren County	Polk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction for cottage food exemption.	No specific IA state or Warren County restriction.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only under cottage food exemption. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. HFPE pathway allows indirect re...	Under cottage food exemption: direct to consumer only. Under HFPE: indirect retail sales also permitted.	Direct sales only within Iowa. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, events. No retail/restaurant wholesale under the \$13...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	Iowa's cottage food exemption (\$137F.20): No license required, no sales cap, direct sales only. Virtually all non-TCS foods permitted, incl...	Cottage food exemption: no license, no cap, direct sales only. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods (pH 4.6 or be...	Non-TCS foods (\$137F.20 exemption), no license, no cap, direct sales only. Acidified foods allowed if each batch pH-tested (pH ≤4.6) or wat...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods allowed. Acidified foods allowed with pH test (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85) and production date on label. Perishable bake...	Non-TCS foods primarily. pH-tested acidified foods allowed with testing. Perishable TCS foods require HFPE registration.	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods
POPULATION	100,367	52,709	493,378

State context — Iowa cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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Advertise here — Courses

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

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

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

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Your business here

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

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