

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Linn County

Iowa · Cedar Rapids · FIPS 19113 · Population 229,308 ·  
Crosodo Index #268\*

## STATE BASELINE

Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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: LINN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #268\* · FIPS 19113 · Cedar Rapids

# Linn County

Population 229,308 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direct sales only. State law preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). No registration required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

No (Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food in Linn County.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; local government explicitly prohibited from adding restrictions (§137F.20(1)))

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direct sales only. State law preempts local governments from restricting cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). No registration required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water supply required
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No formal certification required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods including acidified foods if pH tested (pH ≤4.6) or water activity tested (aw ≤0.85) with production date on label

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection; local government explicitly prohibited from adding restrictions (§137F.20(1))
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	No — Iowa state law (§137F.20(1)) preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements for cottage food operations. No home occupation permit required for cottage food in Linn County.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	No

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pathway allows broader sales including some retail.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

### Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20 (cottage food exemption); preempts local ordinances

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Linn County IA follows Iowa state baseline. Iowa’s cottage food exemption (§137F.20) expressly preempts local regulation — no local licensing or inspection can be required. Cedar Rapids is Iowa’s second-largest city. No local cottage food permit required. State law confirmed. No specific Linn County .gov cottage food source retrieved. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.linncountyia.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/linn-county-discuss>

## State context — Iowa cottage food law

Linn 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b>	
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.	

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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