

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Scott County

Iowa · Davenport · FIPS 19163 · Population 174,315 · Crosodo Index #752*

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: SCOTT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #752* · FIPS 19163 · Davenport

Scott County

Population 174,315 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No license, no cap, direct sales only for cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway available for perishables and broader distribution. Local governments expressly prohibited from adding restrictions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. Scott County may have home occupation zoning requirements for home-based businesses but cannot impose food safety regulations. Scott County government website confirmed at scottcountyiowa.gov.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections under cottage food exemption. State DIAL may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No license, no cap, direct sales only for cottage food exemption (§137F.20). Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) pathway available for perishables and broader distribution. Local governments expressly prohibited from adding restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS products; pH-tested acidified foods must include production date on label.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections under cottage food exemption. State DIAL may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Iowa Code §137F.20(1) explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. Scott County may have home occupation zoning requirements for home-based businesses but cannot impose food safety regulations. Scott County government website confirmed at scottcountyiowa.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and other direct venues. No sales cap. No interstate sales under cottage exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified; household operation implied.

Relevant county code

Iowa Code §137F.20; no specific county cottage food code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Iowa statute expressly prohibits local restrictions on cottage food operations (§137F.20(1)). Scott County government website confirmed. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline. Iowa Dept. of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) is the state regulatory body (reorganized 2023). pH-tested acidified foods allowed under cottage food exemption is notable — more permissive than many states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.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/scott-county-discuss>

State context — Iowa cottage food law

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

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