

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Story County

Iowa · Nevada · FIPS 19169 · Population 98,573 · Crosodo
Index #224*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Story County, Iowa — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Iowa cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Iowa home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Iowa label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

IOWA: STORY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #224* · FIPS 19169 · Nevada

Story County

Population 98,573 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. State expressly prohibits local government from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1). Story County is home to Iowa State University (Ames) and has an active agricultural extension presence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Iowa §137F.20(1) preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations. Story County (home to Ames and Iowa State University) follows state preemption.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed including pH-tested acidified foods. State expressly prohibits local government from adding restrictions per §137F.20(1). Story County is home to Iowa State University (Ames) and has an active agricultural extension presence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be batch pH-tested.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No inspection authority for Iowa cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Iowa §137F.20(1) preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations. Story County (home to Ames and Iowa State University) follows state preemption.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to end consumers from home, farmers markets, events. No indirect retail/wholesale under cottage food exemption. Separate Home Food Processing Establishment pathway available for broader distribution.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit in Iowa cottage food exemption.

Relevant county code

No Story County-specific cottage food code; state preemption applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Story County has provided URL (storycountyiowa.gov). No county-specific cottage food rules found on review. Iowa state preemption is strong. Story County is home to Iowa State University extension which provides producer education resources. City of Ames may have business license requirements for home-based operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov>

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

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

<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/iowa/story-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Story County	Polk County	Boone County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restriction under Iowa cottage food exemption.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction	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	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only to end consumers from home, farmers markets, events. No indirect retail/wholesale under cottage food exemption. Separate ...	Direct sales only within Iowa. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, events. No retail/restaurant wholesale under the §13...	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	No	No	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	Iowa cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, no registration, direct sales only to end consumers. Most non-TCS foods allowed...	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...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods must be batch pH-tested.	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.
POPULATION	98,573	493,378	26,234

State context — Iowa cottage food law

Story 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** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/iowa.

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 about Story County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/iowa/story-county-discuss

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

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

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

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

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

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

crosodo.com/nb/iowa/story-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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