

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Wright County

Iowa · Clarion · FIPS 19197 · Population 12,584 · Crosodo Index #1160*

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: WRIGHT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1160* · FIPS 19197 · Clarion

Wright County

Population 12,584 · State baseline: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must operate from primary residence. No license or inspection required for cottage food. Only non-TCS foods. Direct sales to end consumer only. Acidified foods allowed only if pH or water activity tested per batch.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state or county rule, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during food production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Wright County is a rural north-central Iowa county. Iowa counties typically regulate home occupations through their zoning ordinances as accessory residential uses, requiring operations to be secondary to residential use, conducted by a resident, with no exterior commercial evidence, and limited to a portion of the home. No specific Wright County zoning ordinance text found in research; county-specific rules should be verified with Wright County Planning & Zoning or the Board of Supervisors in Clarion.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. DIAL may investigate upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must operate from primary residence. No license or inspection required for cottage food. Only non-TCS foods. Direct sales to end consumer only. Acidified foods allowed only if pH or water activity tested per batch.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state or county rule, but good manufacturing practices recommend excluding pets during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no additional testing mandate for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard good hygiene practices; no specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored at primary residence; safe handling to prevent adulteration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. DIAL may investigate upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Wright County is a rural north-central Iowa county. Iowa counties typically regulate home occupations through their zoning ordinances as accessory residential uses, requiring operations to be secondary to residential use, conducted by a resident, with no exterior commercial evidence, and limited to a portion of the home. No specific Wright County zoning ordinance text found in research; county-specific rules should be verified with Wright County Planning & Zoning or the Board of Supervisors in Clarion.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Iowa cottage food law requires direct sales from producer to consumer. Home pickup is permitted. Delivery to consumers is permitted. No wholesale or restaurant sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; typical Iowa rural county home occupation rules restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Wright County Zoning Ordinance (unincorporated areas); contact Wright County for current text.

RESEARCH NOTES

Wright County is a rural north-central Iowa county (pop. ~12,600). No specific county zoning ordinance text was located for Wright County in research. Iowa cottage food law (§137F.1/§137F.20) governs food safety; no license or inspection required; direct sales only; non-TCS foods. County zoning home occupation rules are assumed to follow standard Iowa rural county patterns (accessory use, resident-operated, no exterior display). Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence. Operators should contact Wright County at (515) 532-3113 for county-specific zoning confirmation.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.wrightcountyiowa.gov>

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

<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/wright-county-discuss>

State context — Iowa cottage food law

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

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