

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Eaton County

Michigan · Charlotte · FIPS 26045 · Population 109,072 ·
Crosodo Index #451*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MCL §289.4102	Great	50000	MEDIUM	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.

MICHIGAN: EATON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #451* · FIPS 26045 · Charlotte

Eaton County

Population 109,072 · State baseline: MCL \$289.4102 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). No registration, no inspection, no training required. Direct-to-consumer sales only — no wholesale or consignment. Online/mail order/third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Eaton County municipalities (Charlotte, Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids, etc.) may have home occupation or home business zoning requirements. No specific Eaton County-level cottage food ordinance identified. Operators should check with their local municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. Michigan cottage food operations are exempt from MDARD licensing.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). No registration, no inspection, no training required. Direct-to-consumer sales only — no wholesale or consignment. Online/mail order/third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing practices required.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, fruit butters, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, carbonated drinks, kombucha prohibited. Only two specified buttercream frosting recipes permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspections. Michigan cottage food operations are exempt from MDARD licensing.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Eaton County municipalities (Charlotte, Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids, etc.) may have home occupation or home business zoning requirements. No specific Eaton County-level cottage food ordinance identified. Operators should check with their local municipality.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales permitted (2025 amendment). Face-to-face or virtual interaction required. No wholesale or consignment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Eaton County code section identified. State law governs: MCL §289.4102.

RESEARCH NOTES

Eaton County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Michigan's 2025 amendment (HB 4122) doubled the cap to \$50,000 and added online/mail order sales. Effective date is March 2026. Eaton County is adjacent to Lansing (Ingham County) in the capital region. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.eatoncounty.gov>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/eaton-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Eaton County	Calhoun County	Jackson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	Not explicitly prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales permitted (2025 amendment). Face-to-face or virt...	Direct sales only. Sales from home, farmers markets, online (with face-to-face or virtual interaction), and third-party delivery platforms ...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No consignment or wholesale. Online and third-party delivery platform sales now allowed with interaction req...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effec...	Annual sales capped at \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025, effective March 2026; prior cap was \$25,000). No registration, permit, or inspecti...	Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 am...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, fruit butters, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketc...	Non-TCS products only (MCL §289.4102 approved list). Stored in food-safe containers. Only two specified buttercream frosting recipes permit...	Non-PHF products only; no fermented/acidified foods, pickles, fruit butters. Proper storage required.
POPULATION	109,072	134,011	160,637

State context — Michigan cottage food law

Eaton County's rules sit on top of Michigan's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
MCL §289.4102	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are prohibited. Online sales, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales (e.g., DoorDash) are allowed in-state only, but require the producer to offer the customer an opportunity to directly interact (face-to-face or virtually) before purchase. A separate \$75,000 cap applies if all products are priced at \$250 or more per item. Honey and maple syrup have a separate exemption permitting indirect retail sales up to \$15,000/year.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/michigan/>

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/eaton-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 Eaton County, Michigan. 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/michigan/eaton-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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