

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Emmet County

Michigan · Petoskey · FIPS 26047 · Population 33,415 ·  
Crosodo Index #1073\*

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

MICHIGAN: EMMET COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1073\* · FIPS 26047 · Petoskey

# Emmet County

Population 33,415 · State baseline: MCL \$289.4102 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must be the kitchen of the operator’s primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second homes, vacation homes, and motor homes do not qualify if not primary residence. Products must be stored at primary residence. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during production.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Michigan state law exempts cottage food operators from MDARD licensing and inspection but expressly requires operators to contact their local unit of government regarding local regulations. Emmet County unincorporated areas governed by township zoning; City of Petoskey and Harbor Springs have their own ordinances. Operators should verify with local township or municipal zoning office.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection under Michigan cottage food law. MDARD may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must be the kitchen of the operator’s primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second homes, vacation homes, and motor homes do not qualify if not primary residence. Products must be stored at primary residence. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during production.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; no specific county-level additional requirement identified for cottage food operations.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing required per good manufacturing practices; no state-mandated separate handwashing sink required for cottage food.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection under Michigan cottage food law. MDARD may investigate upon complaint or foodborne illness report.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Michigan state law exempts cottage food operators from MDARD licensing and inspection but expressly requires operators to contact their local unit of government regarding local regulations. Emmet County unincorporated areas governed by township zoning; City of Petoskey and Harbor Springs have their own ordinances. Operators should verify with local township or municipal zoning office.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order and third-party delivery platform sales allowed per 2025 HB 4122 amendment (effective March 2026) provided direct consumer interaction occurs before or during the transaction.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	No state limit specified; cottage food law assumes operator and household members only; non-household employees not addressed.

### Relevant county code

No county-level cottage food code section identified for Emmet County. State: MCL §289.4102. Township and city zoning ordinances vary.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food rules found for Emmet County. Rules reflect Michigan state baseline under MCL §289.4102. Emmet County is a rural northern Lower Peninsula county (pop. ~33,400) on Little Traverse Bay. State law governs; no county health department cottage food override identified. Local township and city zoning for home occupations varies. 2025 HB 4122 raised annual sales cap to \$50,000 and authorized online/delivery sales effective March 2026.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/emmet-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Emmet County	Charlevoix County	Cheboygan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro...	No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro...	No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order...	Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order...	Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho...	Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho...	Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.
POPULATION	33,415	26,143	25,276

## State context — Michigan cottage food law

Emmet 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.

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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.

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/emmet-county-discuss>

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