

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Gogebic County

Michigan · Bessemer · FIPS 26053 · Population 13,735 ·  
Crosodo Index #1071\*

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: GOGEBIC COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1071\* · FIPS 26053 · Bessemer

# Gogebic County

Population 13,735 · 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. Gogebic County is a rural Upper Peninsula county bordering Wisconsin; unincorporated areas governed by township zoning. City of Bessemer and Ironwood have their own ordinances. Operators should verify with local township or city 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. Gogebic County is a rural Upper Peninsula county bordering Wisconsin; unincorporated areas governed by township zoning. City of Bessemer and Ironwood have their own ordinances. Operators should verify with local township or city 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 Gogebic County. State: MCL §289.4102. Township and city zoning ordinances vary.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food rules found for Gogebic County. Rules reflect Michigan state baseline under MCL §289.4102. Gogebic County is a small Upper Peninsula county (pop. ~13,700) on the Wisconsin border, known for the Porcupine Mountains. 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/gogebic-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gogebic County	Iron County	Ontonagon 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	13,735	11,231	5,705

## State context — Michigan cottage food law

Gogebic 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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<b>STATUTE</b> MCL §289.4102	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> 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 Gogebic County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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