

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lapeer County

Michigan · Lapeer · FIPS 26087 · Population 88,687 ·
Crosodo Index #2123*

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: LAPEER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2123* · FIPS 26087 · Lapeer

Lapeer County

Population 88,687 · State baseline: MCL \$289,4102 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Production must occur in the kitchen of the producer’s primary domestic residence only. Second homes, vacation homes, motor homes do not qualify. Products must be non-potentially hazardous (no TCS foods). Annual sales cap: \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 amendment, effective March 2026). Products must be stored at primary residence. Direct sales within Michigan only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state-level requirement, but MDARD guidance recommends excluding pets from production areas during food handling. Complaint investigations may examine kitchen hygiene.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Lapeer County and its municipalities each govern home occupation permits separately. MDARD explicitly states that cottage food operators must contact their local unit of government to determine if there are local regulations affecting their business. Lapeer City and Lapeer Township may have home occupation ordinances requiring permits if the business generates customer traffic.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (MDARD may enter and inspect production/storage areas, view records, and take photos if a complaint is filed or a foodborne illness is linked to products. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Production must occur in the kitchen of the producer’s primary domestic residence only. Second homes, vacation homes, motor homes do not qualify. Products must be non-potentially hazardous (no TCS foods). Annual sales cap: \$50,000 (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 amendment, effective March 2026). Products must be stored at primary residence. Direct sales within Michigan only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state-level requirement, but MDARD guidance recommends excluding pets from production areas during food handling. Complaint investigations may examine kitchen hygiene.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement; potable water expected.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory handwashing infrastructure requirement; safe food handling practices expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored at producer’s primary residence in a manner that prevents adulteration from insects, chemicals, water damage, and insanitary conditions.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — MDARD may enter and inspect production/storage areas, view records, and take photos if a complaint is filed or a foodborne illness is linked to products. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Lapeer County and its municipalities each govern home occupation permits separately. MDARD explicitly states that cottage food operators must contact their local unit of government to determine if there are local regulations affecting their business. Lapeer City and Lapeer Township may have home occupation ordinances requiring permits if the business generates customer traffic.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands, and from home are permitted. Internet/mail order and third-party delivery platform sales are allowed as long as the cottage food operation provides an opportunity for direct consumer interaction before the sale. All sales must remain within Michigan.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in the cottage food statute. Local home occupation ordinances may apply.

Relevant county code

No Lapeer County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. MCL §289.4102 governs. Lapeer County Health Department at 810-667-0392 handles food service licensing; cottage food operations are exempt from this licensing.

RESEARCH NOTES

Lapeer County Health Department page confirms it handles food service licensing but references the Michigan Cottage Food Law for cottage food operators. MDARD confirms cottage food operations are exempt from MDARD licensing and routine inspection. The 2025 amendment (HB 4122) doubled the cap from \$25,000 to \$50,000, effective approximately March 2026. Local units of government may have additional requirements. Lapeer County Health Department contact: 810-667-0392, at 1800 Imlay City Rd., Lapeer MI 48446. Confidence is medium: state baseline confirmed from official MDARD source; county-level zoning not confirmed from official county code.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/michigan-cottage-foods-information>
- <https://www.lapeercountymi.gov/departments/health/food.php>
- <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/lapeer-county-discuss>

Bordering counties – cottage food law

Regulation	Lapeer County	St. Clair County	Tuscola County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level requirement, but MIDARD guidance recommends excluding pets from production areas during food handling. Complaint inv...	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.	No specific MI state or Tuscola County restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales at farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands, and from home are permitted. Internet/mail order and third-party delivery pl...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No consignment or wholesale. Online and third-party delivery platform sales now allowed with interaction req...	Direct sales only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery allowed with face-to-face or virtual interaction (per 2025 amendment). No consign...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Production must occur in the kitchen of the producer's primary domestic residence only. Second homes, vacation homes, motor homes do not qu...	Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 am...	Non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. Direct sales only. Annual cap \$50,000 (as of 2025 amendment effective March 2026; prior ...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored at producer's primary residence in a manner that prevents adulteration from insects, chemicals, water damage, and i...	Non-PHF products only; no fermented/acidified foods, pickles, fruit butters. Proper storage required.	Non-potentially hazardous only. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketchup, candied apples, alcohol con...
POPULATION	88,687	160,257	53,218

State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

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