

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Sanilac County

Michigan · Sandusky · FIPS 26151 · Population 40,293 ·  
Crosodo Index #1495\*

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: SANILAC COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1495\* · FIPS 26151 · Sandusky

# Sanilac County

Population 40,293 · State baseline: MCL §289.4102 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102, amended 2025 eff. March 2026) allows up to \$50,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods from the primary residence with no license or registration required. Direct sales, online, mail order, and third-party delivery platforms permitted (with direct interaction requirement). Sales within Michigan only. Local zoning may impose additional home occupation requirements; operators must check with local township or municipality.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No state-level permit required. Sanilac County is a largely rural Michigan Thumb county; home occupation zoning rules are set at the township level. Sanilac Township’s zoning ordinance defines home occupations as clearly incidental and secondary use within dwelling only, no external evidence, max 25% floor area. Operators should contact their specific township zoning administrator.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Complaint-based only; MDARD may inspect if foodborne illness or complaint is received.)

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102, amended 2025 eff. March 2026) allows up to \$50,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods from the primary residence with no license or registration required. Direct sales, online, mail order, and third-party delivery platforms permitted (with direct interaction requirement). Sales within Michigan only. Local zoning may impose additional home occupation requirements; operators must check with local township or municipality.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

No

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.

**WATER SUPPLY**

No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.

**HANDWASHING**

No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general food safety practices.

**FOOD STORAGE**

Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only; stored in primary residence.

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

No — Complaint-based only; MDARD may inspect if foodborne illness or complaint is received.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**

Varies — No state-level permit required. Sanilac County is a largely rural Michigan Thumb county; home occupation zoning rules are set at the township level. Sanilac Township’s zoning ordinance defines home occupations as clearly incidental and secondary use within dwelling only, no external evidence, max 25% floor area. Operators should contact their specific township zoning administrator.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**

Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales, online, mail order, farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands permitted within Michigan. No wholesale or retail consignment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food statute.

### Relevant county code

No county-wide cottage food zoning ordinance identified; township-level home occupation provisions apply. Sanilac Township Zoning Ordinance Sec. 5.6 (Home Occupation) as reference.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

No Sanilac County-specific cottage food zoning ordinance found. Michigan state law governs; local zoning is township-level. Sanilac County is a rural agricultural county in the Michigan Thumb region. State law preempts county from imposing licensing/inspection requirements on cottage food operations but local home occupation zoning standards still apply. Defaulted to state baseline plus medium confidence.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sanilacounty.net>

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

<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/sanilac-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sanilac County	Huron County	Lapeer County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro...	No specific state-level requirement, but MDARD guidance recommends excluding pets from production areas during food handling. Complaint inv...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales, online, mail order, farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands permitted within Michigan. No wholesale or retail consignme...	Direct sales within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order...	Direct sales at farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands, and from home are permitted. Internet/mail order and third-party delivery pl...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102, amended 2025 eff. March 2026) allows up to \$50,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardou...	Must be the kitchen of the operator’s primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho...	Production must occur in the kitchen of the producer’s primary domestic residence only. Second homes, vacation homes, motor homes do not qu...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only; stored in primary residence.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.	Products must be stored at producer’s primary residence in a manner that prevents adulteration from insects, chemicals, water damage, and i...
POPULATION	40,759	30,981	88,687

## State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

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

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