

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Joseph County

Michigan · Centreville · FIPS 26149 · Population 60,887 ·
Crosodo Index #1626*

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: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1626* · FIPS 26149 · Centreville

St. Joseph County

Population 60,887 · State baseline: MCL §289.4102 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102) allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. No registration, no inspection required. \$50,000 annual sales cap (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). Direct sales only. Only specific allowed products under the approved list.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (St. Joseph County and local townships/municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should verify with their local township or the St. Joseph County Planning and Zoning Department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine or complaint-only inspection authority specified for cottage food in MCL §289.4102.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102) allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. No registration, no inspection required. \$50,000 annual sales cap (raised from \$25,000 by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 2026). Direct sales only. Only specific allowed products under the approved list.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general GMP.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable. No reduced oxygen packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine or complaint-only inspection authority specified for cottage food in MCL §289.4102.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — St. Joseph County and local townships/municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should verify with their local township or the St. Joseph County Planning and Zoning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only (no wholesale or consignment). Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. 2025 amendment allows online/mail order/third-party delivery platforms with face-to-face or virtual interaction requirement (effective March 2026).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute; family members may assist.

Relevant county code

St. Joseph County zoning (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for St. Joseph County. State baseline (MCL §289.4102) applies. Michigan uses an approved product list approach; not all non-TCS foods qualify. Only two specific buttercream frosting recipes are permitted. 2025 amendment (HB 4122) raised cap to \$50,000 and added online/delivery sales platform allowance, 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/st-joseph-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	St. Joseph County	Cass County	Van Buren County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only (no wholesale or consignment). Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. 2025 amendment allows online/...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales allowed per 2025 amendment (MCL §289.4102, effec...	Direct sales with face-to-face or virtual interaction required. Online and mail order now allowed (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consign...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102) allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. No registration, no inspection required...	Must produce in home kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only (approved list). Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online/mail order/third-...	Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in a home kitchen. \$50,000 annual sales cap (effective March 2026 per 2025 HB 4122). Direct sales ...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable. No reduced oxygen packaging.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous; proper storage implied.	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored properly. Only two approved buttercream frosting recipes permitted.
POPULATION	60,887	51,604	75,636

State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

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