

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Tuscola County

Michigan · Caro · FIPS 26157 · Population 53,218 · Crosodo
Index #895*

STATE BASELINE

MCL §289.4102 (amended 2025; cap raised to \$50,000 effective March 2026)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: TUSCOLA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #895* · FIPS 26157 · Caro

Tuscola County

Population 53,218 · State baseline: MCL \$289.4102 (amended 2025; cap raised to \$50,000 effective March 2026) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. Direct sales only. Annual cap \$50,000 (as of 2025 amendment effective March 2026; prior cap \$25,000). No registration or inspection required. Allowed: baked goods, candies, condiments (honey, nut butters, syrups, vinegars), dry goods, pastries, preserves, snacks. Online/mail order/third-party delivery platform sales allowed (with face-to-face or virtual interaction) per 2025 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific MI state or Tuscola County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state registration required for cottage food operations. Tuscola County is a rural agricultural county (Thumb region). No specific county cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Tuscola County government in Caro for home occupation requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections; MDARD may investigate on complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. Direct sales only. Annual cap \$50,000 (as of 2025 amendment effective March 2026; prior cap \$25,000). No registration or inspection required. Allowed: baked goods, candies, condiments (honey, nut butters, syrups, vinegars), dry goods, pastries, preserves, snacks. Online/mail order/third-party delivery platform sales allowed (with face-to-face or virtual interaction) per 2025 amendment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific MI state or Tuscola County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement; recommended best practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous only. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketchup, candied apples, alcohol confections, meat jerkies, juices, carbonated drinks, kombucha. Only two specific buttercream frosting recipes permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections; MDARD may investigate on complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state registration required for cottage food operations. Tuscola County is a rural agricultural county (Thumb region). No specific county cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Tuscola County government in Caro for home occupation requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery allowed with face-to-face or virtual interaction (per 2025 amendment). No consignment or wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in MI statute.

Relevant county code

MCL §289.4102; no Tuscola County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Tuscola County is in Michigan’s Thumb agricultural region. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline: 2025 HB 4122 doubled the cap from \$25,000 to \$50,000 (effective March 2026) and explicitly added online/mail order/third-party delivery. The michigan.gov MDARD page returned 403 during crawl; information from state research notes.

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/tuscola-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Tuscola County	Lapeer County	Bay County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific MI state or Tuscola County restriction.	No specific state-level requirement, but MDARD guidance recommends excluding pets from production areas during food handling. Complaint inv...	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. Online/mail order/third-party delivery allowed with face-to-face or virtual interaction (per 2025 amendment). No consign...	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 only. Online, mail order, and third-party delivery permitted (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consignment.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. Direct sales only. Annual cap \$50,000 (as of 2025 amendment effective March 2026; prior ...	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 non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchens. Annual sales cap of \$50,000 (raised by 2025 HB 4122, effective March 20...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous only. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketchup, candied apples, alcohol con...	Products must be stored at producer's primary residence in a manner that prevents adulteration from insects, chemicals, water damage, and i...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, fruit butters, pickles, fermented foods, salsas, sauces, ketc...
POPULATION	53,218	88,687	103,752

State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

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