

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Van Buren County

Michigan · Paw Paw · FIPS 26159 · Population 75,636 ·
Crosodo Index #1109*

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: VAN BUREN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1109* · FIPS 26159 · Paw Paw

Van Buren County

Population 75,636 · State baseline: MCL §289.4102 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in a home kitchen. \$50,000 annual sales cap (effective March 2026 per 2025 HB 4122). Direct sales with face-to-face or virtual interaction required. No wholesale or consignment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (State law does not require a home occupation permit for cottage food. Van Buren County may have local zoning requirements. No Van Buren County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. MDARD may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in a home kitchen. \$50,000 annual sales cap (effective March 2026 per 2025 HB 4122). Direct sales with face-to-face or virtual interaction required. No wholesale or consignment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored properly. Only two approved buttercream frosting recipes permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. MDARD may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — State law does not require a home occupation permit for cottage food. Van Buren County may have local zoning requirements. No Van Buren County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales with face-to-face or virtual interaction required. Online and mail order now allowed (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consignment. No sales outside Michigan.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee restriction specified.

Relevant county code

No Van Buren County-specific cottage food code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Van Buren County follows Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102) as amended in 2025. \$50,000 cap effective March 2026. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/van-buren-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Van Buren County	St. Joseph County	Allegan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales with face-to-face or virtual interaction required. Online and mail order now allowed (2025 amendment). No wholesale or consign...	Direct sales to consumers only (no wholesale or consignment). Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. 2025 amendment allows online/...	Michigan allows direct sales only: from home, online, mail order, third-party delivery platforms (with in-person or virtual interaction), f...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in a home kitchen. \$50,000 annual sales cap (effective March 2026 per 2025 HB 4122). Direct sales ...	Michigan cottage food law (MCL §289.4102) allows non-potentially hazardous foods from home kitchen. No registration, no inspection required...	Michigan allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from a home kitchen. No registration or inspection required. Sales cap raised to \$5...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored properly. Only two approved buttercream frosting recipes permitted.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable. No reduced oxygen packaging.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products only per approved list. Two specific buttercream frosting recipes permitted. Acidified food...
POPULATION	75,636	60,887	120,189

State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Van Buren County, Michigan. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/michigan/van-buren-county-discuss

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