

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Wexford County

Michigan · Cadillac · FIPS 26165 · Population 34,460 ·
Crosodo Index #1519*

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: WEXFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1519* · FIPS 26165 · Cadillac

Wexford County

Population 34,460 · 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. Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5 governs home occupations at the county level and defines them as occupations conducted entirely within a residential structure, incidental to residential use, occupying no more than 25% of floor area, with no external evidence and max one non-resident employee.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5 (Sec. 3.2) defines home occupations as activities conducted entirely within a residential structure, incidental to residential use, no more than 25% of dwelling floor area (excluding attic/basement), no external evidence of business use, one illuminated non-flashing sign up to 6 sq ft permitted on front wall, and no more than one non-resident employee. Activity must be within the dwelling, not in an accessory building. The Wexford Joint Zoning Ordinance of 2017 also defines a separate 'Cottage Industry' category for activities at a greater scale than home occupation.)

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. Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5 governs home occupations at the county level and defines them as occupations conducted entirely within a residential structure, incidental to residential use, occupying no more than 25% of floor area, with no external evidence and max one non-resident employee.

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	Yes — Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5 (Sec. 3.2) defines home occupations as activities conducted entirely within a residential structure, incidental to residential use, no more than 25% of dwelling floor area (excluding attic/basement), no external evidence of business use, one illuminated non-flashing sign up to 6 sq ft permitted on front wall, and no more than one non-resident employee. Activity must be within the dwelling, not in an accessory building. The Wexford Joint Zoning Ordinance of 2017 also defines a separate 'Cottage Industry' category for activities at a greater scale than home occupation.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
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	1 non-resident employee (per Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5 Sec. 3.2).

Relevant county code

Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5, Sec. 3.2 (Home Occupations/Home Professional Offices); Wexford Joint Zoning Ordinance of 2017 Sec. 1082 (Home Occupations).

RESEARCH NOTES

Wexford County Zoning Ordinance #5 (adopted 1995, amended 2012) found via energyzoning.org. Sec. 3.2 governs home occupations with clear standards: entirely in dwelling, max 25% floor area, no external evidence, one non-resident employee, one small sign. The Wexford Joint Zoning Ordinance of 2017 defines home occupation as automatic allowed use without permit; cottage industry as a distinct scaled-up category. County seat is Cadillac. State cottage food law allows up to \$50,000 in annual sales from home kitchen.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://wexfordcounty.org>

<https://wexfordcounty.org>

https://wexfordcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/WexfordCoZoningOrdinance5_amended2012.pdf

<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/wexford-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Wexford County	Benzie County	Kalkaska 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 prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practices apply and pets should be excluded from food production areas during pro...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	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 within Michigan only. Allowed venues include farmers markets, roadside stands, craft shows, and home pickup. Online/mail order...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	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...	Must be the kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Single-family home, apartment, condo, or rental home qualifies; second ho...
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.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be stored at primary residence in a clean, pest-free area to prevent adulteration.
POPULATION	33,766	17,767	18,038

State context — Michigan cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Wexford 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/wexford-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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