

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Blue Earth County

Minnesota · Mankato · FIPS 27013 · Population 69,022 ·
Crosodo Index #1036*

STATE BASELINE

Minn. Stat. §28A.152

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

78000

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.

MINNESOTA: BLUE EARTH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1036* · FIPS 27013 · Mankato

Blue Earth County

Population 69,022 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual sales cap \$78,000. Food handler certification required. Registration required with Minnesota Department of Agriculture. No kitchen inspection. Indirect sales not allowed. No TCS foods, no perishable baked goods, no chocolate-covered fruit, no confections with alcohol.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county govt URL provided. Blue Earth County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Mankato has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Annual sales cap \$78,000. Food handler certification required. Registration required with Minnesota Department of Agriculture. No kitchen inspection. Indirect sales not allowed. No TCS foods, no perishable baked goods, no chocolate-covered fruit, no confections with alcohol.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state law

WATER SUPPLY

Standard residential water supply

HANDWASHING

Required as part of food handler certification training

FOOD STORAGE

Appropriate storage for non-PHF products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspection; complaint-based possible

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No county govt URL provided. Blue Earth County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Mankato has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Direct-to-consumer delivery permitted in-state; no wholesale

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Minnesota Great-tier state with \$78,000 cap and MDA registration required. Blue Earth County includes Mankato (college city). No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Blue Earth County	Brown County	Faribault County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer delivery permitted in-state; no wholesale	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods may not be sold across state lines.	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods may not be sold across state lines.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual sales cap \$78,000. Food handler certification required. Registration required with Minnesota Department of Agriculture. No kitchen i...	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods ...	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods ...
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-PHF products	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.
POPULATION	69,022	25,880	13,931

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

Blue Earth County's rules sit on top of Minnesota's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	78000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales are limited to direct-to-consumer channels: community events, farmers markets, from the producer's home, online (in-state delivery by the producer personally or by mail/commercial delivery), and fundraising donations. Restaurants, retail stores, roadside stands, mail order wholesale, and catering are prohibited. All deliveries must be made by the producer personally unless shipped by mail or commercial delivery upon a prior online sale. Home-canned products in the pH/water-activity exemption category (Subd. 1(a)(2)) may not be sold outside of Minnesota.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Minnesota cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A.152>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/minnesota/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Blue Earth County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/minnesota/blue-earth-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 Blue Earth County, Minnesota. 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/minnesota/blue-earth-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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