

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Dakota County

Minnesota · Hastings · FIPS 27037 · Population 439,179 ·  
Crosodo Index #2764\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	Great	78000	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.

MINNESOTA: DAKOTA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2764\* · FIPS 27037 · Hastings

# Dakota County

Population 439,179 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152) allows non-potentially-hazardous foods without a food license, up to \$78,000 gross annual sales (2025 inflation-adjusted cap). Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/yr): free online training registration. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/yr): \$50 annual registration fee + approved food safety course every 3 years. Direct sales to consumers, at farmers markets/events, from home (to extent allowed by local ordinance), and online (with producer delivering). Local ordinances not preempted: Dakota County municipalities may impose additional zoning/licensing requirements. Dakota County requires home occupation permit.)

### SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

### PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Dakota County zoning requires home occupation permit or conditional use permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Business must be secondary to residential use; no external signage; typically no on-site employees. Cities within Dakota County (Eagan, Lakeville, Apple Valley, Burnsville) have their own rules. Home sales directly to consumers allowed to extent permitted by local ordinance per state statute. HOAs may impose additional restrictions.)

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

### INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection required at state level. MN Stat. §28A.152 does not preempt local sanitation, public health, or zoning requirements.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Conditional — Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152) allows non-potentially-hazardous foods without a food license, up to \$78,000 gross annual sales (2025 inflation-adjusted cap). Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/yr): free online training registration. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/yr): \$50 annual registration fee + approved food safety course every 3 years. Direct sales to consumers, at farmers markets/events, from home (to extent allowed by local ordinance), and online (with producer delivering). Local ordinances not preempted: Dakota County municipalities may impose additional zoning/licensing requirements. Dakota County requires home occupation permit.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Home-canned items must meet pH 4.6 or lower or water activity 0.85 or less.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No inspection required at state level. MN Stat. §28A.152 does not preempt local sanitation, public health, or zoning requirements.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Yes — Dakota County zoning requires home occupation permit or conditional use permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Business must be secondary to residential use; no external signage; typically no on-site employees. Cities within Dakota County (Eagan, Lakeville, Apple Valley, Burnsville) have their own rules. Home sales directly to consumers allowed to extent permitted by local ordinance per state statute. HOAs may impose additional restrictions.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	No
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales from home (if local ordinance permits), at community events/farmers markets, and online (producer must deliver). Home-canned items (pH 4.6 or lower) may only be sold at community events/farmers markets or within Minnesota via producer delivery.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Typically none on-site per Dakota County home occupation rules.

### Relevant county code

Minn. Stat. §28A.152 (state cottage food exemption); Dakota County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions). Local municipal codes vary.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Minnesota cottage food statute confirmed from official revisor.mn.gov PDF. Dakota County home occupation permit requirement confirmed via CityRuleLookup (Municode source). State does not preempt local zoning/business licensing. Cities within Dakota County (Eagan, Lakeville, Apple Valley, Burnsville) have separate city-specific rules. \$78,000 cap is inflation-adjusted for 2025 per 2025 amendment. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; county zoning details from Municode-sourced summary.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>
- <https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/dakota-county-mn>
- <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2021/cite/28A.152/pdf>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dakota County	Ramsey County	Washington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home (if local ordinance permits), at community events/farmers markets, and online (producer must deliver). Home-canned i...	Direct sales within Minnesota: farmers markets, community events, home sales (if local zoning allows), online within Minnesota. \$78,000 ann...	Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, online (direct delivery only within MN); no interstate sales for home-canned category; Class A CFO ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152) allows non-potentially-hazardous foods without a food license, up to \$78,000 gross annual...	State registration required (\$50 if sales exceed \$7,665; free otherwise). Accredited food safety training required. \$78,000 annual sales ca...	Annual sales cap of \$78,000 (2025, CPI-adjusted). Two tiers: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free registration training only; Tier 2 (...)
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Home-canned items must meet pH 4.6 or lower or water activity 0.85 or less.	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; no refrigerated finished products
POPULATION	439,179	547,202	268,651

## State context — Minnesota cottage food law

Dakota 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	78000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
Yes	Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
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.

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/minnesota/dakota-county-discuss>

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