

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Freeborn County

Minnesota · Albert Lea · FIPS 27047 · Population 30,314 ·  
Crosodo Index #1558\*

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

MINNESOTA: FREEBORN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1558\* · FIPS 27047 · Albert Lea

# Freeborn County

Population 30,314 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods from a home kitchen. Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year): free online training only. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year): paid training course and \$30 annual registration fee required. Direct sales, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods cannot be sold across state lines.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

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

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No county-specific cottage food permit identified. Freeborn County is a southern Minnesota county with county seat Albert Lea on I-35 near the Iowa border. Local townships may have home occupation zoning standards. Operators should contact Freeborn County planning or their local township.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Complaint-based investigation only.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152, amended 2025) allows up to \$78,000 annual gross sales of non-potentially hazardous foods from a home kitchen. Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year): free online training only. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year): paid training course and \$30 annual registration fee required. Direct sales, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods cannot be sold across state lines.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety training requirements.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Complaint-based investigation only.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No county-specific cottage food permit identified. Freeborn County is a southern Minnesota county with county seat Albert Lea on I-35 near the Iowa border. Local townships may have home occupation zoning standards. Operators should contact Freeborn County planning or their local township.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, community events, and internet sales permitted. Canned goods may not be sold across state lines.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food statute.

**Relevant county code**

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified; state MDA rules govern.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No Freeborn County-specific cottage food zoning ordinance found. State MDA rules govern; local jurisdictions largely defer to state law. Defaulted to MN state baseline plus medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.co.freeborn.mn.us>

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

<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/freeborn-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Freeborn County	Faribault County	Mower County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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.	Direct sales to consumers in person, at farmers markets, roadside stands, on-farm, community events, online (within MN only). No interstate...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	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 ...	Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free MDA Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.	Non-PHF products only; proper storage to prevent contamination required.
POPULATION	30,857	13,931	40,082

## State context — Minnesota cottage food law

Freeborn 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> Minn. Stat. §28A.152	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 78000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> 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 Freeborn County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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