

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Olmsted County

Minnesota · Rochester · FIPS 27109 · Population 162,307 ·
Crosodo Index #2677*

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: OLMSTED COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2677* · FIPS 27109 · Rochester

Olmsted County

Population 162,307 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year) requires \$50 Cottage Food Producer Training Course (every 3 years) plus \$30 annual registration fee with MDA. Allowed foods include non-PHF items: baked goods, candies, condiments, dry goods, preserves, fermented foods, and pH-tested pickles/salsas. No home kitchen inspection required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Olmsted County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. Rochester (county seat) has its own zoning rules. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement possible by MDA.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year) requires \$50 Cottage Food Producer Training Course (every 3 years) plus \$30 annual registration fee with MDA. Allowed foods include non-PHF items: baked goods, candies, condiments, dry goods, preserves, fermented foods, and pH-tested pickles/salsas. No home kitchen inspection required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under state cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF products only; proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement possible by MDA.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Olmsted County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. Rochester (county seat) has its own zoning rules. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales at farmers markets, roadside stands, on-farm, direct, online (in-state only), and certain retail channels. Direct sales and limited indirect sales. Home-canned products may not be sold outside Minnesota.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Olmsted County Zoning Ordinance; City of Rochester zoning codes

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. State baseline governs. No Olmsted County-specific cottage food code identified. Minnesota's 2025 amendment raised the cap to \$78,000 (CPI-indexed). Olmsted County health and planning URLs not provided; county govt URL is verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.olmstedcounty.gov>

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

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

<https://www.olmstedcounty.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Olmsted County	Winona County	Dodge County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices required.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales at farmers markets, roadside stands, on-farm, direct, online (in-state only), and certain retail channels. Direct sales and limited i...	Direct-to-consumer sales within Minnesota only. No indirect sales or retail. Home-canned goods sold in this category may not be sold outsid...	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	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Minnesota two-tier system: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/yea...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual sales cap \$78,000 (2025 amendment, CPI-indexed). Tier 1 (~\$7,665/year): free registration trai...	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	Non-PHF products only; proper storage to prevent contamination required.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and not require refrigeration.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.
POPULATION	162,307	49,792	20,893

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

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