

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Otter Tail County

Minnesota · Fergus Falls · FIPS 27111 · Population 60,072 ·  
Crosodo Index #1660\*

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: OTTER TAIL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1660\* · FIPS 27111 · Fergus Falls

# Otter Tail County

Population 60,072 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Minnesota cottage food registration required (\$30/year for Tier 2, or free Tier 1 training for under ~\$7,665/year). No inspection. Food handler certification required. \$78,000 annual cap (Tier 2, indexed for inflation, updated 2025). No kitchen inspection.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Otter Tail County and local municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Otter Tail County Planning and Zoning.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine or complaint-only inspection specified for cottage food in Minn. Stat. §28A.152.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Minnesota cottage food registration required (\$30/year for Tier 2, or free Tier 1 training for under ~\$7,665/year). No inspection. Food handler certification required. \$78,000 annual cap (Tier 2, indexed for inflation, updated 2025). No kitchen inspection.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food handler training.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable products required.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine or complaint-only inspection specified for cottage food in Minn. Stat. §28A.152.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Otter Tail County and local municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Otter Tail County Planning and Zoning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales to consumers. Farmers markets, home pickup, events. No wholesale to stores. Home-canned goods may not be sold outside Minnesota.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified in state statute.

## Relevant county code

Otter Tail County zoning (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Otter Tail County. State baseline (Minn. Stat. §28A.152) applies. Minnesota has a two-tier system. The 2025 amendment raised the cap to \$78,000 (CPI-indexed from July 2025). Broad allowed food list including acidified foods, fermented foods, and juices. Otter Tail County is a large rural lake-area county in west-central MN.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Otter Tail County	Clay County	Becker County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	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	Direct sales to consumers. Farmers markets, home pickup, events. No wholesale to stores. Home-canned goods may not be sold outside Minnesot...	Direct sales only; no wholesale or retail sales. Farmers markets, events, home, and online within Minnesota. Home-canned goods for direct M...	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	Minnesota cottage food registration required (\$30/year for Tier 2, or free Tier 1 training for under ~\$7,665/year). No inspection. Food han...	Registration required with MDA. Two tiers: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year, free registration training); Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year, \$50 trainin...	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-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable products required.	Non-PHF foods and pH-tested acidified foods; proper storage required	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; no refrigeration required.
POPULATION	60,072	65,307	35,202

## State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

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

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