

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Stearns County

Minnesota · Saint Cloud · FIPS 27145 · Population 158,622 ·
Crosodo Index #2681*

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: STEARNS COUNTY

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Stearns County

Population 158,622 · 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, pH-tested pickles/salsas. No home kitchen inspection.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Stearns County and the City of Saint Cloud may require home occupation permits under local zoning. 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, pH-tested pickles/salsas. No home kitchen inspection.
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 — Stearns County and the City of Saint Cloud may require home occupation permits under local zoning. 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. 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

Stearns County Zoning Ordinance; Minn. Stat. §28A.152

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Minnesota's 2025 amendment raised the cap to \$78,000. No Stearns County-specific cottage food code identified.

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/stearns-county-discuss>

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

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