

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Watonwan County

Minnesota · Saint James · FIPS 27165 · Population 11,204 ·  
Crosodo Index #2625\*

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: WATONWAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2625\* · FIPS 27165 · Saint James

# Watonwan County

Population 11,204 · 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 MDA Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year, CPI-indexed from July 2025) requires \$50 Cottage Food Producer Training Course renewed every 3 years plus \$30 annual registration fee. Allowed foods: non-potentially hazardous items. Local ordinances are not preempted; producers must verify Watonwan County and Saint James city zoning for home occupation rules.)

### SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

### PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Watonwan County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers should verify with Watonwan County and Saint James city planning.)

### 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 MDA Cottage Food Producer Registration Training. Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year, CPI-indexed from July 2025) requires \$50 Cottage Food Producer Training Course renewed every 3 years plus \$30 annual registration fee. Allowed foods: non-potentially hazardous items. Local ordinances are not preempted; producers must verify Watonwan County and Saint James city zoning for home occupation rules.
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 — Watonwan County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers should verify with Watonwan County and Saint James city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers in person, at farmers markets, roadside stands, on-farm, community events, online (within MN only). No interstate sales for home-canned category. No third-party retail distribution.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

### Relevant county code

Watonwan County Zoning Ordinance; Minn. Stat. §28A.152 Subd. 6

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Rural southwestern Minnesota county. State baseline governs; no Watonwan County-specific cottage food ordinance found. MDA administers registration. The 2025 amendment raised the cap to \$78,000 (CPI-indexed). Local zoning compliance required.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/cottage-food-law-guidance>

<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/watonwan-county-discuss>

## State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

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

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