

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Meagher County

Montana · White Sulphur Springs · FIPS 30059 · Population 2,065 · Crosodo Index #759*

STATE BASELINE

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

| STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Freedom | — | 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.

MONTANA: MEAGHER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #759* · FIPS 30059 · White Sulphur Springs

Meagher County

Population 2,065 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No specific Meagher County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of White Sulphur Springs may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Meagher County planning/zoning department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under standard cottage food track (§50-50-116). Products sold direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, events, and from home; no consignment/retail/wholesale. The Montana Local Food Choice Act (Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional pathway for direct producer-to-consumer sales of virtually any homemade food without licensing or inspection requirements, provided the sale is in-state and consumers are informed the food is unlicensed and uninspected. No sales cap under either track. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements. |
| WATER SUPPLY | Not specified in state cottage food law. |
| HANDWASHING | Standard food safety sanitation practices required; products must comply with applicable food standards. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Proper storage to prevent contamination required. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint — No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — No specific Meagher County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of White Sulphur Springs may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Meagher County planning/zoning department. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Not specified in state cottage food law. |

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinances found for Meagher County. Remote central Montana county; one of the least populated in Montana. Governance follows state law. Recommend verifying with Meagher County Planning and local health department for any local registration or business license requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.meaghercounty.gov>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Meagher County | Broadwater County | Judith Basin County |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements. | Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements. | Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements. |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, ret... | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, ret... | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, ret... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| RESTRICTIONS | Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s... | Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s... | Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro... | Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro... | Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro... |
| POPULATION | 1,948 | 6,977 | 2,039 |

State context — Montana cottage food law

Meagher County’s rules sit on top of Montana’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| STATUTE | ANNUAL SALES CAP |
| Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) | — |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| Yes | No |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| Upon-complaint | Yes |
| INDIRECT SALES | |
| No — Consignment sales at retail food establishments or through wholesale establishments are explicitly prohibited under §50-50-116(3). The Montana Local Food Choice Act also requires direct producer-to-informed-end-consumer transactions only; retail locations require a wholesale food license. | |

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Montana cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/montana/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Meagher County’s specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/montana/meagher-county-discuss>

Classifieds Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Meagher County, Montana. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/montana/meagher-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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