

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Buffalo County

Nebraska · Kearney · FIPS 31019 · Population 50,103 ·
Crosodo Index #793*

STATE BASELINE

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

NEBRASKA: BUFFALO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #793* · FIPS 31019 · Kearney

Buffalo County

Population 50,103 · State baseline: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods plus certain TCS foods (as expanded by LB262, effective July 2024). Must register with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Food handler certification required. Direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, public events, home pickup, and delivery allowed. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Buffalo County (county seat Kearney) has a county government. Buffalo County website found in input (buffalocounty.ne.gov). City of Kearney may require local business license. No specific Buffalo County cottage food ordinances found in research. Recommend verifying with Buffalo County and City of Kearney planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine kitchen inspection. NDA may investigate on complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods plus certain TCS foods (as expanded by LB262, effective July 2024). Must register with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Food handler certification required. Direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, public events, home pickup, and delivery allowed. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required per food handler certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products required for standard cottage food. Some TCS foods permitted with LB262 expanded framework with additional handling requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine kitchen inspection. NDA may investigate on complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Buffalo County (county seat Kearney) has a county government. Buffalo County website found in input (buffalocounty.ne.gov). City of Kearney may require local business license. No specific Buffalo County cottage food ordinances found in research. Recommend verifying with Buffalo County and City of Kearney planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales at public events, home pickup, and delivery. No wholesale or retail distribution.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280; LB262 (2024); Buffalo County zoning code

RESEARCH NOTES

Nebraska expanded cottage food rules in 2024 (LB262) to allow some TCS foods with additional requirements. Food handler certification required. Buffalo County has county govt website in input. No Buffalo County-specific cottage food ordinances found in research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buffalocounty.ne.gov>

https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed_food/cottage_foods.html

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=81-2,280>

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

State context — Nebraska cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280 (producer of food at private home); §81-2,239 et seq. (Nebraska Pure Food Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Sales must be direct-to-consumer. Wholesale to restaurants, grocery stores, or distributors is not permitted under the cottage food framework. Non-TCS foods may be mailed; TCS foods must be delivered in person by the producer within 2 hours.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=81-2,239.05>

State dept cottage food page: https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed_food/cottage_foods.html

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

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Buffalo County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/nebraska/buffalo-county-discuss>
