

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chase County

Nebraska · Imperial · FIPS 31029 · Population 3,924 ·
Crosodo Index #1462*

STATE BASELINE

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

NEBRASKA: CHASE COUNTY

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Chase County

Population 3,924 · State baseline: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State law permits cottage food production from a private home kitchen. Registration required with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Direct-to-consumer sales only (farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, home pickup/delivery). No annual sales cap. As of LB262 (July 2024), some TCS foods permitted with additional requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Chase County is a small, sparsely populated county in southwestern Nebraska. Unincorporated areas very likely have minimal or no county zoning. City of Imperial has its own municipal zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required; complaint-driven investigation possible)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — State law permits cottage food production from a private home kitchen. Registration required with Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Direct-to-consumer sales only (farmers markets, fairs, festivals, craft shows, home pickup/delivery). No annual sales cap. As of LB262 (July 2024), some TCS foods permitted with additional requirements. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required |
| WATER SUPPLY | Standard residential water supply |
| HANDWASHING | Good sanitation practices required |
| FOOD STORAGE | Appropriate storage to maintain product safety |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — No routine inspection required; complaint-driven investigation possible |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Chase County is a small, sparsely populated county in southwestern Nebraska. Unincorporated areas very likely have minimal or no county zoning. City of Imperial has its own municipal zoning. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct delivery to consumer permitted in-state; no wholesale to retailers |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Not specified at county level |

Relevant county code

Chase County zoning regulations if adopted; check with county office

RESEARCH NOTES

Nebraska Good-tier state. State law (§81-2,280 as amended by LB262, July 2024) is the primary framework. Chase County is a very small rural county (pop. ~3,924). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. State registration with NDA required. Direct sales only; no wholesale.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chasecountyne.gov>

<https://nda.nebraska.gov/fscp/foods/cottagefood>

<https://cottagefoodlaw.unl.edu/faq/>

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

State context — Nebraska cottage food law

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

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