

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Dawson County

Nebraska · Lexington · FIPS 31047 · Population 23,595 ·  
Crosodo Index #1418\*

## STATE BASELINE

Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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: DAWSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1418\* · FIPS 31047 · Lexington

# Dawson County

Population 23,595 · 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 (Dawson County is a mid-sized central Nebraska county along the Platte River. County zoning for unincorporated areas may include home occupation provisions. City of Lexington has its own municipal zoning.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

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

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state law; good sanitation practices required
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Standard residential water supply
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Good sanitation practices required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection required; complaint-driven investigation possible
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Dawson County is a mid-sized central Nebraska county along the Platte River. County zoning for unincorporated areas may include home occupation provisions. City of Lexington has its own municipal zoning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

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

## Relevant county code

Dawson County zoning regulations; check with county planning office

### RESEARCH NOTES

Nebraska Good-tier state. State law (§81-2,280 as amended by LB262, July 2024) is the primary framework. Dawson County (pop. ~23,595) is a larger rural county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. State registration with NDA required. Direct sales only; no wholesale.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dawsoncountyne.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/dawson-county-discuss>

## State context — Nebraska cottage food law

Dawson 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.

<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280 (producer of food at private home); §81-2,239 et seq. (Nebraska Pure Food Act)	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
Yes	Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b>	
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](https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed_food/cottage_foods.html)

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

## Questions?

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

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

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