

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Lancaster County

Nebraska · Lincoln · FIPS 31109 · Population 322,063 ·  
Crosodo Index #1315\*

## STATE BASELINE

**Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280; registration required; food handler certificate required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap**

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
<b>Good</b>	—	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>2026-05-05</b>

**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: LANCASTER COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #1315\* · FIPS 31109 · Lincoln

# Lancaster County

Population 322,063 · State baseline: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2,280; registration required; food handler certificate required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (NDA registration required; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer sales only (farmers markets, events, roadside stands); no TCS foods; labeling required)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No county-specific home occupation permit identified. City of Lincoln may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Complaint-based investigation possible)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — NDA registration required; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer sales only (farmers markets, events, roadside stands); no TCS foods; labeling required
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water at residence
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Proper handwashing required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Complaint-based investigation possible
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No county-specific home occupation permit identified. City of Lincoln may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department
<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 to consumer only; farmers markets, fairs, festivals, roadside stands; no retail or wholesale
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

### RESEARCH NOTES

Lancaster County includes Lincoln, NE's capital city. NE requires registration and food handler cert. No county-specific cottage food rules found. Lincoln city may have home occupation rules.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

[https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed\\_food/cottage\\_foods.html](https://nda.nebraska.gov/foods/processed_food/cottage_foods.html)

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

## State context — Nebraska cottage food law

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

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

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