

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cass County

North Dakota · Fargo · FIPS 38017 · Population 186,328 ·
Crosodo Index #227*

STATE BASELINE

N.D. Cent. Code §23-09.5-01 through §23-09.5-02

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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.

NORTH DAKOTA: CASS COUNTY

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Cass County

Population 186,328 · State baseline: N.D. Cent. Code §23-09.5-01 through §23-09.5-02 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No sales cap, no registration, no inspection, no licensing required. Direct sales to informed end consumer only. Products must be labeled with consumer advisory: 'This product is made in a home kitchen that is not inspected by the state or local health department.' Sales to food establishments, processing plants, or food stores prohibited.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state restriction specified.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (ND statute (§23-09.5-02(1)) expressly prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from requiring licensure, permitting, or certification for cottage food. However, local zoning (Fargo municipal code) may require a home occupation permit for any home-based business. Cass County has not been verified to have a specific cottage food ordinance beyond state law. Fargo city allows home-based businesses under home occupation permits with few restrictions.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State may investigate complaints related to foodborne illness. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No sales cap, no registration, no inspection, no licensing required. Direct sales to informed end consumer only. Products must be labeled with consumer advisory: 'This product is made in a home kitchen that is not inspected by the state or local health department.' Sales to food establishments, processing plants, or food stores prohibited.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state restriction specified.
WATER SUPPLY	No explicit state requirement beyond potable water.
HANDWASHING	No state-mandated specific requirement for cottage food; standard hygiene practices expected.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirement beyond keeping products safe for consumption.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State may investigate complaints related to foodborne illness. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — ND statute (§23-09.5-02(1)) expressly prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from requiring licensure, permitting, or certification for cottage food. However, local zoning (Fargo municipal code) may require a home occupation permit for any home-based business. Cass County has not been verified to have a specific cottage food ordinance beyond state law. Fargo city allows home-based businesses under home occupation permits with few restrictions.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales may occur at farm, ranch, farmers market, farm stand, home-based kitchen, or any non-prohibited venue, including delivery. Direct producer-to-consumer transactions only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

N.D. Cent. Code §23-09.5-01 through §23-09.5-02; Fargo municipal code (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

ND statute text directly retrieved from ndlegis.gov confirming no cap, no registration, no inspection, and prohibition on local licensing requirements for cottage food. Fargo/Cass County has no specific cottage food ordinance beyond state law per CityRuleLookup (still researching). Fargo municipal code allows home-based businesses under home occupation permits with few restrictions. ND is among the most permissive cottage food states in the nation.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.casscountynd.gov>

<https://ndlegis.gov/cencode/t23c09-5.pdf>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/cass-county-nd>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cass County	Barnes County	Ransom County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	No state restriction specified.	No state restriction specified.	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales may occur at farm, ranch, farmers market, farm stand, home-based kitchen, or any non-prohibited venue, including delivery. Direct pro...	Sales may occur at farm, ranch, farmers market, farm stand, home-based kitchen, or any non-prohibited venue, including delivery. Direct pro...	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	—
RESTRICTIONS	No sales cap, no registration, no inspection, no licensing required. Direct sales to informed end consumer only. Products must be labeled w...	No sales cap, no registration, no inspection, no licensing required. Direct sales to informed end consumer only. Products must include cons...	—
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirement beyond keeping products safe for consumption.	No specific state requirement beyond keeping products safe for consumption.	—
POPULATION	186,328	10,415	5,663

State context — North Dakota cottage food law

Cass County's rules sit on top of North Dakota's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
N.D. Cent. Code §23-09.5-01 through §23-09.5-02	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Transactions must be directly between the cottage food operator and the 'informed end consumer' and solely for home consumption. Products may not be sold or used in any food establishment, food processing plant, or food store. No wholesale channel is permitted.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://ndlegis.gov/cencode/t23c09-5.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ndhealth.gov/foodlodging/cottagefood/>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-dakota/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/north-dakota/cass-county-discuss>
