

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

McKenzie County

North Dakota · Watford City · FIPS 38053 · Population
14,782 · Crosodo Index #2883*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
—	Freedom	—	MEDIUM	

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: MCKENZIE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2883* · FIPS 38053 · Watford City

McKenzie County

Population 14,782 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Check_local

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Check_local

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

RESEARCH NOTES

McKenzie County is a rural North Dakota county. McKenzie County has a Land Development Ordinance (updated 2025). Home occupation provisions exist but no specific cottage food restrictions beyond state law found. State law governs. North Dakota’s cottage food law (N.D. Cent. Code ch. 23-09.5) is highly permissive with no sales cap, no registration, no inspection, and a broad product definition. County-level zoning is minimal or absent in most ND counties; state law governs.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mckenziecounty.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	McKenzie County	Billings County	Dunn 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	Check_local	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	—	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	—	No sales cap, no registration, no inspection, no licensing required. Direct sales to informed end consumer only. Products must include cons...	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	14,081	928	4,380

State context — North Dakota cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in McKenzie County, North Dakota. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

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Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/north-dakota/mckenzie-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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