

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Ward County

North Dakota · Minot · FIPS 38101 · Population 69,532 ·  
Crosodo Index #549\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## STATE TIER

Freedom

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## 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: WARD COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #549\* · FIPS 38101 · Minot

# Ward County

Population 69,532 · State baseline: N.D. Cent. Code §23-09.5-01 through §23-09.5-02 · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No inspection required. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no indirect sales. Non-TCS foods only.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state law

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No county govt URL provided. Ward County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Minot has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based possible)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No inspection required. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no indirect sales. Non-TCS foods only.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state law
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Standard residential water supply
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Good sanitation practices implied
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection; complaint-based possible
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No county govt URL provided. Ward County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Minot has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
<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; no indirect/wholesale sales
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

North Dakota Freedom-tier state. Ward County contains Minot, a regional center. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

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**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.ndhealth.gov/foodlodging/cottagefood/>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ward County	Burke County	McHenry County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	No state restriction specified.	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only; no indirect/ wholesale sales	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	Varies	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	—
RESTRICTIONS	No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No inspection required. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no indirect s...	No sales cap, no registration, no inspection, no licensing required. Direct sales to informed end consumer only. Products must include cons...	—
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products	No specific state requirement beyond keeping products safe for consumption.	—
POPULATION	69,532	2,126	5,326

## State context — North Dakota cottage food law

Ward 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
N.D. Cent. Code §23-09.5-01 through §23-09.5-02	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b>	
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.	

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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