

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ashland County

Wisconsin · Ashland · FIPS 55003 · Population 15,562 ·
Crosodo Index #2432*

STATE BASELINE

Wis. Stat. §97.29

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

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.

WISCONSIN: ASHLAND COUNTY

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Ashland County

Population 15,562 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Wisconsin has a case-law-driven cottage food framework: (1) The statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acidified vegetables/fruits (pH 4.6 or lower) sold at community events or farmers markets, capped at \$5,000/year; (2) The Kivirist injunction (2017) prohibits DATCP from enforcing licensing requirements against home bakers of good character who sell nonhazardous shelf-stable baked goods directly to consumers; (3) The 2024 Court of Appeals ruling (2024 WI App 69) confirmed unbaked goods (candies, fudge, chocolates) are NOT covered by the Kivirist exception.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Ashland County follows standard Wisconsin local government zoning framework. Home occupation permits may be required under Ashland County zoning ordinance. No Ashland County-specific cottage food overlay identified. Ashland city (county seat) has its own rules within city limits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (DATCP has declined to enforce against qualifying home bakers per Kivirist injunction; complaint-driven action possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Wisconsin has a case-law-driven cottage food framework: (1) The statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acidified vegetables/fruits (pH 4.6 or lower) sold at community events or farmers markets, capped at \$5,000/year; (2) The Kivirist injunction (2017) prohibits DATCP from enforcing licensing requirements against home bakers of good character who sell nonhazardous shelf-stable baked goods directly to consumers; (3) The 2024 Court of Appeals ruling (2024 WI App 69) confirmed unbaked goods (candies, fudge, chocolates) are NOT covered by the Kivirist exception.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under the Wisconsin cottage food framework.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — DATCP has declined to enforce against qualifying home bakers per Kivistik injunction; complaint-driven action possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Ashland County follows standard Wisconsin local government zoning framework. Home occupation permits may be required under Ashland County zoning ordinance. No Ashland County-specific cottage food overlay identified. Ashland city (county seat) has its own rules within city limits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivistik-covered baked goods. Pickle Bill allows farmers market and community event sales only (up to \$5,000/year). No wholesale or retail sales allowed under either exception.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state cottage food framework; home occupation zoning rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Ashland County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Wis. Stat. §97.29

RESEARCH NOTES

Ashland County is a rural northern Wisconsin county bordering Lake Superior. No county-specific cottage food rules identified. State baseline (Kivistik/Pickle Bill) is operative. Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.ashland.wi.us>

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CottageFoodLaws.aspx

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/97/29>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ashland County	Bayfield County	Iron County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state prohibition for cottage food bakers; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivist-covered baked goods. Pickle Bill allows farmers market and community event sales only (up to \$5,000/ye...	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivist-covered baked goods. Pickle Bill allows farmers market and community event sales only (up to \$5,000/ye...	Direct-to-consumer only for Kivist-covered baked goods. Pickle Bill allows farmers market and community event sales only (up to \$5,000/ye...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Wisconsin has a case-law-driven cottage food framework: (1) The statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acid...	Wisconsin has a case-law-driven cottage food framework: (1) The statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acid...	Wisconsin has a case-law-driven cottage food framework: (1) The statutory 'Pickle Bill' (§97.29(2)(b)2) allows home-canned pickles and acid...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.
POPULATION	15,562	15,473	5,786

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Wis. Stat. §97.29

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Home-canned goods must be sold at community or social events or farmers' markets in Wisconsin (§97.29(2)(b)2.b). The Kivist court order applies to direct-to-consumer sales by home bakers. Products cannot be sold to retail food establishments or distributed through wholesale channels without a license.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Wisconsin cottage food law report**.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/97/29>

State dept cottage food page: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CottageFoodLaws.aspx

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

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/ashland-county-discuss>

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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

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Advertise here — Insurance

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Ashland County, Wisconsin. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

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crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/ashland-county-discuss

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