

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

La Crosse County

Wisconsin · La Crosse · FIPS 55063 · Population 120,216 ·
Crosodo Index #647*

STATE BASELINE

Wis. Stat. §97.29 (Pickle Bill: home-canned acidified foods up to \$5,000 at community events/farmers markets); Kivirist court order (2017, unlicensed home bakers allowed); direct sales only

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Freedom	Tiered	MEDIUM	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.

WISCONSIN: LA CROSSE COUNTY

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Population 120,216 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 (Pickle Bill: home-canned acidified foods up to \$5,000 at community events/farmers markets); Kivirist court order (2017, unlicensed home bakers allowed); direct sales only · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Wisconsin has an unusual framework: (1) Pickle Bill (§97.29) allows home-canned pickles/acidified foods with pH ≤4.6 up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets; (2) Kivirist court order (2017) allows home bakers to sell shelf-stable nonhazardous baked goods direct to consumers at low volume without a license; (3) 2024 Court of Appeals clarified Kivirist does NOT cover unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy). La Crosse County follows state framework.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Wisconsin state law does not require home occupation permits specifically for cottage food. La Crosse County unincorporated areas and the city of La Crosse may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No specific county overlay found. Contact La Crosse County Planning or city of La Crosse zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required under Kivirist/Pickle Bill frameworks. DATCP enforcement has been enjoined for qualifying home bakers. Complaint-driven investigation possible.)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Wisconsin has an unusual framework: (1) Pickle Bill (§97.29) allows home-canned pickles/acidified foods with pH ≤4.6 up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets; (2) Kivirist court order (2017) allows home bakers to sell shelf-stable nonhazardous baked goods direct to consumers at low volume without a license; (3) 2024 Court of Appeals clarified Kivirist does NOT cover unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy). La Crosse County follows state framework.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

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

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; no specific county overlay.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under Kivirist/Pickle Bill framework.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable non-TCS baked goods and home-canned acidified foods (pH ≤4.6). Unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require a food processing plant license.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required under Kivirist/Pickle Bill frameworks. DATCP enforcement has been enjoined for qualifying home bakers. Complaint-driven investigation possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Wisconsin state law does not require home occupation permits specifically for cottage food. La Crosse County unincorporated areas and the city of La Crosse may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No specific county overlay found. Contact La Crosse County Planning or city of La Crosse zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Wisconsin: direct sales only. Pickle Bill allows sales at community events and farmers markets. Kivirist allows direct consumer sales at low volume. No wholesale or retail store sales without a license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Wis. Stat. §97.29

RESEARCH NOTES

Wisconsin cottage food landscape is unusually complex, shaped by case law. The 2024 Court of Appeals ruling (Wisconsin Cottage Food Association v. DATCP) significantly limited Kivirist to baked goods only. La Crosse County includes the city of La Crosse (pop ~52K). Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org>

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/la-crosse-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	La Crosse County	Jackson County	Monroe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction for cottage food; 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	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Wisconsin: direct sales only. Pickle Bill allows sales at community events and farmers markets. Kivist allows direct consumer sales at lo...	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 an unusual framework: (1) Pickle Bill (§97.29) allows home-canned pickles/acidified foods with pH ≤4.6 up to \$5,000/year at c...	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-TCS baked goods and home-canned acidified foods (pH ≤4.6). Unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require a food process...	Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.	Shelf-stable, non-potentially-hazardous baked goods only; proper storage required.
POPULATION	120,216	20,643	45,365

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

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Advertise here

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

crosodo.com/advertise

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crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/la-crosse-county-discuss

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