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# Cottage FOOD

## WHAT IS COTTAGE FOOD?



A **Cottage Food Operation** is an operation conducted by a person who produces or packages non-potentially hazardous food or drink (other than foods and drinks listed as prohibited) in a kitchen located in that person's primary domestic residence or appropriately designed and equipped kitchen on a farm for direct sale by the owner, a family member, or employee.

*Home-to-Market Act (SB2007)*

The Cottage Food Law was created to support the growth of small businesses by creating regulations that allow food entrepreneurs to use their home kitchen to make certain food products for sale directly to consumers.

### Where can I sell within Illinois?

- Farmers market, fairs, festivals, or public events
- Online
- Pickup from the private home or farm of the cottage food operator
- Delivery to the customer
- Pickup from a third-party private property with the consent of the third-party property holder

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## What can I sell?

Any food or drink NOT on the prohibited food list (see additional resources for full list).

## What do I need to get started?

1. Take an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) approved Certified Food Protection Managers Course. Contact your local Extension office or Community College for classes and exams.
2. Register with the local health department you reside in: fill out the application, list what foods you intend to sell, and pay a fee (some counties do not charge, otherwise capped at \$50)

## What if I want to produce acidified or fermented foods?

**You will need...** A completed food safety plan and representative pH test for each product with a different food safety process *OR*  
An approved recipe from the USDA National Center for Home Food Preservation or the cooperative extension office of any state.

## What if I want to can tomatoes or tomato products like salsa?

**You will need...** A pH test for each recipe *OR* an approved recipe from the USDA National Center for Home Food Preservation or the cooperative extension office of any state.

## Additional Resources:

- Illinois Extension Cottage Food website: [go.illinois.edu/CottageFoods](https://go.illinois.edu/CottageFoods)
- 2022 Cottage Food Guide: [bit.ly/3wDEoih](https://bit.ly/3wDEoih)
- Cottage Food Operator Training (self-paced, online course): [go.illinois.edu/CottageFoodTraining](https://go.illinois.edu/CottageFoodTraining)

## Questions?

Find answers by contacting your local Illinois Extension office: [go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice](https://go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice)

