Michigan's Cottage Foods

Cottage Food Business Rules

What's Allowed:

Up to $50,000 yearly in gross sales of certain foods with no license, registration, or inspection. However, $75, 000 is allowable if the cottage food operation sells cottage food products at a price of $250 or more per unit.

Cottage food businesses may advertise online and collect payments in-person or through a pay app. Cottage food products must be sold directly from the cottage food operation to the consumer. A cottage food product may be sold by internet or mail order or may be delivered to a consumer through a third-party food delivery platform if the cottage food operation provides an opportunity for a consumer to directly interact with the cottage food operation before the cottage food product is sold. A cottage food product may only be sold or delivered within Michigan.

Cottage foods must be made, packaged, and labeled in your primary residence (home). The label must include the statement, "Made in a home kitchen not inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development." MSU Product Center Voluntary Registration for cottage food operations would enable the operation to use an assigned registration number and phone number on their labels in place of their address.

Foods that May Be Considered for Cottage Foods

- ✓ Bread, quick bread, muffins, cookies.
- ✓ Pies–shelf-stable.
- ✓ Cakes–cupcakes, birthday, wedding, etc.
- ✓ Frosting or glaze made with shelf-stable ingredients or from tested recipes.
- ✓ Freeze-dried products from shelf-stable foods (e.g., candy, herbs, some fruits, raw vegetables).
- ✓ Extracts (e.g., vanilla extract).
- ✓ Fruit jams or jellies (as defined in 21 CFR part 150) in glass jars.
- ✓ Vinegar and flavored vinegar.
- ✓ Mixed-dry baking, dips, soup, dry herbs, or herbs.
- ✓ Dried pasta with or without egg.
- ✓ Snacks-popcorn, granola, nuts, or chocolate covered pretzels, bananas, strawberries, apple slices, etc.
- ✓ Roasted coffee beans.
- ✓ Whole and sliced dehydrated fruits or vegetables.

Foods that Cannot Be Cottage Foods

- × Bread with fresh vegetables or chunks of cheese.
- × Custard or cream-based pies.
- × Cakes that require refrigeration (e.g., cheesecake).
- × Frosting or glaze made from ingredients requiring refrigeration (e.g., cream cheese frosting).
- × Freeze-dried products that are made from temperature-controlled foods (e.g., ice cream, cheesecake).
- × Tinctures.
- × Other jams/jellies (e.g., vegetable, hot pepper, low/ no-sugar) or fruit/vegetable butters.
- × Garlic in oil mixtures.
- × Salad dressings, sauces, or condiments.
- × Cut melon, tomato, or leafy greens products.
- × Fresh pasta.
- × Caramel apples.

Food Categories that Are NOT Allowed as Cottage Food

- Beverages.
- CBD, cannabis, or foods with these products.
- Dairy or dairy products.
- Dietary supplements.
- Fish or fish products.
- Canned fruit or vegetables.
- Ice or ice products.
- Meat or meat products.
- Pet food or treats.
- Pickled products.

Questions?

Visit MDARD's website https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/michigan-cottage-foods-information
Or scan the QR code.
Call 800-292-3939 or Email MDARD-CottageFood@michigan.gov to connect with a food inspector.