

Promoting a Safer and Healthier Community Since 1854

Under the Illinois Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, Cottage Food Operation [410 ILCS 625/4], baked goods that are not potentially hazardous may be produced in the kitchen of the person's primary domestic residence for direct sale to customers at Farmers' Markets. The public act only provides for direct sale by the owner or the family member to customers at Farmers' Markets. Thus, cottage food operation products cannot be sold to retail stores, restaurants, over the internet, by mail order, or to wholesalers, brokers or other food distributors who resell food. The cottage food operation shall register with the local health department where the cottage food operation resides. Failure to register with the local health department will subject the cottage food operation to regulation by Illinois Department of Public Health and/or Illinois Department of Agriculture.

HOW TO BECOME AN APPROVED COTTAGE FOOD VENDOR?

➤ **Step 1 Obtain an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) approved food service sanitation management certificate.**

If you are not already certified, IDPH maintains a list of trainers by region at <http://dph.illinois.gov/fssmccourses/>. Please be aware the classroom-based certification training requires a total of 8 hours followed by an exam. There are fees associated with the certification training. It may take up to 8 weeks to obtain your certificate from the State once you pass the certification exam and pay an additional \$35 fee to IDPH.

➤ **Step 2 Register with the Winnebago County Health Department.**

Register with our county after receiving the IDPH approved food service sanitation management certificate. The registration form may be downloaded from our website by [clicking here](#). Send a completed and signed registration form along with a copy of a valid IDPH sanitation management certificate and \$25 registration fee to:

Winnebago County Health Department
401 Division Street
P.O. Box 4009
Rockford, IL 61110-0509

➤ **Step 3 Winnebago County Health Department reviews all the submitted information.**

Plan reviewer may contact the prospective vendor for additional information if necessary.

➤ **Step 4 Winnebago County Health Department approves the cottage food operation.**

Certificate of Registration will be mailed to the vendor which should be prominently displayed in the booth at the point of sale otherwise the booth will be subjected to inspection with a fee.

For any questions, please contact our plan reviewer, Karen Hobbs, at 815-720-4115.

For more information, visit our website at: www.wchd.org Contact us by phone at: 815-720-4000 or by mail at: Winnebago County Health Department, PO Box 4009, Rockford, Illinois 61110
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

