

## **Cottage Foods Operation: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What is a Cottage Food Operation?**

A: A Cottage Food Operation is defined as any person who manufactures or prepares food items in a non-food establishment setting (such as the person's home) for sale to consumers.

### **Q: What types of Cottage Foods may I produce?**

A: Breads, cakes, pastries, candies, cookies, bread mixes, fruit pies, jams, jellies, preserves, dried fruits, popcorn, popcorn balls, cotton candy, dry herbs, seasonings, cereals, trail-mixes, granolas, coated and un-coated nuts and vinegar and flavored vinegar.

### **Q: What foods may we not sell as Cottage Foods?**

A: Home canned foods and sauces, pickled items, breads/cakes/pies made with home canned food ingredients, apple cider, dried or dehydrated meats or chicken (jerkies), apple (fruit) butters, pumpkin butter, or other fruit butters. Additionally, foods containing cream cheese frosting, uncooked egg, custard, or meringue may not be sold.

### **Q: Why are some products not allowed to be sold as Cottage Foods?**

A: Some products are not allowed to be sold as Cottage Foods due to the inherent risks that may be associated with these non-allowable foods since they will not be inspected or regulated by Local/State/Federal health officials. The bill passed by the Nevada Legislature allowed only certain listed foods to be provided.

### **Q: Do I need a Health Permit to sell Cottage Foods?**

A: No, Cottage Foods Operations do not need a Health Permit but they do need to register with Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) Environmental Health Services (EHS). To sell in other Nevada Counties you must be registered with the Health Authority which has jurisdiction in that area.

- Carson City Health and Human Services  
(775)-8872190  
[www.gethealthycarsoncity.org](http://www.gethealthycarsoncity.org)
- Southern Nevada Health District  
(702) 759-0588  
[www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org)
- All other rural areas-Nevada Department of Health and Humans Services  
(775) 687-7550  
[http://health.nv.gov/BFHS\\_EHS.htm](http://health.nv.gov/BFHS_EHS.htm)

### **Q: Are there production limits for my Cottage Food Business?**

A: There is a \$35,000.00 per year limit on the amount of money that can be earned by a Cottage Food producer. The limit was established by the Nevada Legislature (SB 20677/2013).

### **Q: Can I sell cottage food over the phone or the internet?**

A: No, Cottage Foods are not allowed to be sold over the phone or the internet.

### **Q: Can I sell my Cottage foods to wholesalers, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.?**

A: No, Cottage Foods must be sold directly from the producer to the consumer. Cottage Foods are not inspected or produced under the required industry standards as established by the USDA and/or FDA. Adherence to industry standards ensures safe food is supplied for routine sale and use in the food service industry.

### **Q: Where may I sell my Cottage Foods?**

A: Cottage Foods may be sold from your home, roadside stands (on your own property), flea markets, swap meets, church bazaars, garage sales, or craft fairs.

**Q: Do I need to label my Cottage Foods?**

A: Yes, Cottage Foods must have labels that state:

1. The common identity of the food product
2. The net quantity of the product
3. A list of ingredients contained in the product. Ingredients must be listed in descending order according to their percentage of the total food product.
4. A list of all major allergens contained in the food product. The nine major allergens that must be listed if found in the food product are: fin fish, shell fish, eggs, dairy, wheat, soy, tree nuts, peanuts, and sesame seed.
5. The name and contact information of the manufacturer.

In addition to all major labeling requirements, the label of cottage foods must include the statement: “Made in a cottage food operation that is not subject to routine government inspection.”

**Q: How do I file a complaint against a Cottage Food operation?**

A: To file a complaint against a Cottage Food Operation, contact NNPH EHS at 775-328-2434, option 8 or email

[foodsafety@NNPH.org](mailto:foodsafety@NNPH.org).

**Q: Can I give out samples?**

A: Cottage Food Operations can provide samples that are prepackaged. In order to sample unpackaged foods, the Cottage Food Operation must apply for a Sampling Permit with Northern Nevada Public Health. To learn more about Sampling Permits, contact NNPH EHS at 775-328-2434, option 8 or email [foodsafety@NNPH.org](mailto:foodsafety@NNPH.org).

**Q: Do I need to obtain a Business License?**

A: To determine if you need a business license for a Cottage Food Operation, contact the business licensing agency relevant to your location:

- Washoe County Business Licensing: 775-328-3733
- City of Reno Business Licensing: 775-334-2090
- City of Sparks Business Licensing: 775-353-2360

**Q: Do I need to collect Sales Tax?**

A: Please visit the [Nevada Department of Taxation](#) web page or call the Nevada Department of Taxation at 866-962-3707 for further details.

**Q: Where can I find a copy of the Cottage Food Law?**

A: [Nevada State Legislature – Senate Bill 206](#)

[Nevada State Legislature – Nevada Revised Statutes \(NRS\) Chapter 446](#)

**Q: Where can I learn more about starting a Cottage Foods Operation?**

A: To learn more about Cottage Foods Operations:

- Contact NNPH EHS by calling 775-328-2434, option 8.
- Email the NNPH EHS Food Safety Team by emailing [foodsafety@NNPH.org](mailto:foodsafety@NNPH.org).
- Read the [Cottage Foods Operations Fact Sheet](#).
- Learn about other health permits for food establishments by visiting the [NNPH EHS Food Safety webpage](#).