

Cottage Industry Law Encourages Small Food Producers

The Can-Do Kitchen is looking forward to the positive effects of the new Cottage Food Operation Law on small-scale food producers. It is a great opportunity for producers & growers to learn if food business is something they want to pursue. Those wishing to go to the **next level** by selling at retail locations, expanding product offerings, or grossing over \$15,000 have a great next step – **The Can-Do Kitchen!** We are here to support small producers by offering reasonable rates for commercial kitchen rental, access to business counseling, networking with other producers, and on-going support to help them achieve their goals.

Here is a summary of the Cottage Industry Law

For more complete information, see the Michigan Department of Agriculture's website www.michigan.gov/mda

A "cottage food operation" is "a person who produces or packages non-potentially hazardous food in a kitchen of that person's primary domestic residence."

Sale of allowable foods by a cottage food operation are limited to, farm markets, or roadside stands; municipal farmers markets; county fairs; and town celebrations, festivals, and events. A cottage food operation is not allowed to sell its products at craft shows, flea markets or other for-profit events; by means of the internet or other media inside or outside this state; at permanent sales venues other than farmers markets, homes, or roadside stands; or by means of consignment or in other licensed retail establishments

The bill defines "non-potentially hazardous food" as "a food that is not potentially hazardous food as that term is defined in the Food Code, which includes, but is not limited to, baked goods, jams, jellies, candy, snack food, cereal, granola, dry mixes, vinegar, and dried herbs. Non-potentially hazardous food does not include home-canned low acid or acidified vegetables, home-canned salsa, or home-canned food; food service items; ready-to-eat meals, meat sandwiches, cheese, or custard pies; garlic in oil; food that requires temperature control for safety; and bottle water, home produced ice products, and other beverages and products."

Food products made in a person's primary domestic residence must be labeled with, "MADE IN A HOME KITCHEN THAT HAS NOT BEEN INSPECTED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE."

Gross sales of eligible products by a cottage food operation cannot exceed \$15,000 annually.