

2/1/2018

Please read closely: Whiteside County has never allowed any Home Kitchens or any food to be prepared within a home kitchen except for the following:

A Certified Food Manager may prepare food to be sold at a farmers market if they have a valid food manager's license **AND** are registered within the county as a Cottage Food vendor and they must only sell food items listed on the cottage food guidelines. Farmers market locations are the only area cottage food vendors may sell product with the exception of a Registered Cottage Food Vendor whose products' main ingredient comes from the farm you live on, then it is permissible to sell that product straight from the location it grew from. Example: Apple pies may be sold from a licensed cottage food vendor on the property the apples originated.

The home kitchen act aka "cupcake law" **HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED** in Whiteside County therefore no product can be made in a home kitchen outside of the rules above. The only other way to do any food preparation within a home is to dedicate a portion of the home into becoming a **certified** kitchen and then having it **fully licensed** with the Whiteside County Health Department. The facility will be assessed by risk category based on the complexities of the food prepared and the operator and all food handlers will need at minimum a food handler's license and/or a food manager's certification and possible allergen training in addition. Having a food handler's license or a food manager's license alone **DOES NOT ALLOW** for the preparation of foods at home. Social media "sell sites" are monitored by Health Department staff and complaints received on illegal food preparation anywhere in the county are dealt with on a case by case basis and citations may be issued especially for repeat offenders.

Hopefully this helps clarify some issues, if you ever have any questions please feel free to contact our office at 815-772-7411.

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