



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
&  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

## For Immediate Release

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**News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.**

Agency Website: [www.willcountyhealth.org](http://www.willcountyhealth.org)

Twitter: WillCoHealth

### NEW STATE LAW BRINGS HOME KITCHENS TO FARMERS' MARKETS

**JOLIET** – There are 214 new state laws on the books for 2012, including legislation permitting certain food items prepared at home to be sold at farmers' markets.

The new Cottage Food Operation Law creates opportunities for local residents wishing to sell foods that are not potentially hazardous and prepared in their own kitchens during farmers' markets held across the area. Sellers may not earn more than \$25,000 worth of gross receipts in a calendar year, and local vendors planning to take advantage of the new law must register with the local health department where the cottage food operation resides.

Information about the new law is posted on the Will County Health Department website at <http://www.willcountyhealth.org/en/do.jsp?id=1769>. Will County vendors looking to take advantage of the new law must obtain an Illinois Department of Public Health approved Food Service Sanitation Management Certificate and should be prepared to post a certificate of registration received from the Will County Health Department at all farmers' market events.

Sellers must display a placard stating: "This product was produced in a home kitchen not subject to public health inspection and a kitchen that may also process common food allergens." Larger sellers and the foods they produce are not exempted by the Cottage Food Operation Law and are still required to comply with existing regulations, including all previously required permits. Cottage food operators residing outside Illinois are not eligible to participate.

Home-produced food products eligible for sale under the law include: certain fruit-based jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butters, breads, cookies, cakes, certain fruit pies, and some pastries. Certain dried foods, including herbs and teas may also be sold. Approved foods may only be sold at farmers' markets.

A list of approved foods and a Cottage Food Operation Law application form can be found on the Health Department website. Prospective cottage food vendors with questions concerning the new law should telephone Will County Environmental Health at 815-727-8490. Questions can also be emailed to [info@willcountyhealth.org](mailto:info@willcountyhealth.org).



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