

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Santa Cruz County

Arizona · Nogales · FIPS 04023 · Population 50,508 ·
Crosodo Index #3075*

STATE BASELINE

A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932; AZ tier: Great; azdhs.gov cottage food program

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Santa Cruz County, Arizona — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

True

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION

False

PETS

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Arizona cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Arizona home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Arizona label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ARIZONA: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3075* · FIPS 04023 · Nogales

Santa Cruz County

Population 50,508 · State baseline: A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932; AZ tier: Great; azdhs.gov cottage food program · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

True (Santa Cruz County requires a Home Occupation Permit (Conditional Use Permit) for home-based businesses operating in unincorporated areas. City of Nogales additionally requires a business license (\$35 initial + \$35 annual) for businesses operating within city limits. Contact Santa Cruz County Planning Department for zoning compliance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

False (Complaint-based only per state law)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; private well operators should test water quality

HANDWASHING

Required per AZ DHS cottage food program guidelines

FOOD STORAGE

Standard food safety storage per AZ DHS cottage food program

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

False — Complaint-based only per state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

True — Santa Cruz County requires a Home Occupation Permit (Conditional Use Permit) for home-based businesses operating in unincorporated areas. City of Nogales additionally requires a business license (\$35 initial + \$35 annual) for businesses operating within city limits. Contact Santa Cruz County Planning Department for zoning compliance.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

True

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

True

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Limited; home occupation rules typically restrict commercial signage

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Direct-to-consumer sales allowed; delivery and pickup permitted per AZ state law

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified at county level; typical home occupation rules restrict non-resident employees

Relevant county code

Santa Cruz County Zoning Ordinance - Home Occupation provisions; A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932 (state cottage food)

RESEARCH NOTES

Arizona state cottage food law (A.R.S. §36-931/§36-932) is permissive and preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations. Santa Cruz County requires a Home Occupation Permit (confirmed via business license registry showing 'Home Occupation Permit' and 'Conditional Use Permit' as county-level license types). City of Nogales (county seat) requires a separate city business license at \$35. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. AZ DHS registration required at state level. Some AZ counties require a locally-issued food handler card; Santa Cruz County practice unconfirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/187/Environmental-Health>

<https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/157/Planning-Zoning>

<https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov>

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/food-safety-environmental-services/cottage-food-program/index.php>

<https://www.nogalesaz.gov/188/Business-License-Information>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/arizona/santa-cruz-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Santa Cruz County	Cochise County	Pima County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county overlay; state food safety standards apply. Food preparation areas should be clean and free from contamination.	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	False	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Limited; home occupation rules typically restrict commercial signage	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales allowed; delivery and pickup permitted per AZ state law	Customer pickup and delivery/pickup of supplies allowed 8 AM–7 PM per home occupation standards. No semi-tractor trailers for delivery/pick...	State law allows direct and indirect sales. Local codes may address where food can and cannot be sold. ARS §36-931 provisions do not affect...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	True	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	True	Varies	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	—	Arizona state law allows cottage food production from a registered home kitchen. Cochise County follows state baseline. Registration with A...	Pima County follows ADHS for cottage food registration. In unincorporated areas, home occupations are allowed as accessory use with a Home ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food safety storage per AZ DHS cottage food program	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per standard food safety practices. Perishable ingredients refrigerated appropriately.	State baseline applies
POPULATION	47,838	125,504	1,042,393

State context — Arizona cottage food law

Santa Cruz County's rules sit on top of Arizona's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — Retail and wholesale sales are allowed for non-dairy/non-meat products; stores must display homemade products separately from commercially produced items; dairy and meat products must be sold directly in person (online orders allowed but must be delivered in person, not via third-party platforms).

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Arizona cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/arizona.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.azleg.gov/arsDetail/?title=36>

State dept cottage food page: <https://azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/food-safety-environmental-services/index.php#cottage-food>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/arizona/>

Questions about Santa Cruz County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/arizona/santa-cruz-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Santa Cruz County, Arizona. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/arizona/santa-cruz-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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