

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bay County

Florida · Panama City · FIPS 12005 · Population 181,055 ·
Crosodo Index #1243*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. \$500.80	Great	250000	MEDIUM	2026-05-05

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

Bay County, Florida — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

250000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Florida 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
- ☐ Florida home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Florida label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

FLORIDA: BAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1243* · FIPS 12005 · Panama City

Bay County

Population 181,055 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$250,000. No wholesale. Strong state preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local government restrictions on cottage food operations. Must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local restrictions. However, producers must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Bay County has no verified county-level cottage food overlay beyond state law. County URLs were blank in input.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon receipt of a consumer complaint per §500.80(7). No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$250,000. No wholesale. Strong state preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local government restrictions on cottage food operations. Must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per good manufacturing practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products stored in clean, dry conditions.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon receipt of a consumer complaint per §500.80(7). No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local restrictions. However, producers must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Bay County has no verified county-level cottage food overlay beyond state law. County URLs were blank in input.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct sales from home and farmers markets allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state preemption is strong and well-established. Bay County is the location of Panama City and Panama City Beach; no county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state law. Same as other Florida pattern counties.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baycounty.gov>

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bay County	Walton County	Calhoun County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	False
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No state or county-specific rule for cottage food
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint only
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Must comply with Calhoun County signage ordinances
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct sales from home and farmers markets allowed.	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. \$250,000 annual sales cap (one of the highest in the country). No wholesale to di...	Direct-to-consumer; online/ mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/ consignm...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Likely; verify with Calhoun County
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Likely; Calhoun County local business tax receipt; contact Calhoun County Tax Collector
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$250,000. No wholesale. Strong state preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local government restrictions o...	Any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety (non-TCS). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginn...	—
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products stored in clean, dry conditions.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.	Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage
POPULATION	181,055	76,618	13,753

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Fla. Stat. §500.80	250000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Florida cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/florida.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

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

Questions about Bay 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/florida/bay-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 Bay County, Florida. 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/florida/bay-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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