

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Charlotte County

Florida · Punta Gorda · FIPS 12015 · Population 189,900 ·
Crosodo Index #1246*

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

Charlotte 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 pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.

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: CHARLOTTE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1246* · FIPS 12015 · Punta Gorda

Charlotte County

Population 189,900 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. State preemption clause bars local restrictions. Charlotte County is on the Gulf Coast southwest of Fort Myers.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Charlotte County and City of Punta Gorda may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Charlotte County Community Development or City of Punta Gorda Planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. State preemption clause bars local restrictions. Charlotte County is on the Gulf Coast southwest of Fort Myers.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement under Florida cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Charlotte County and City of Punta Gorda may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Charlotte County Community Development or City of Punta Gorda Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee cap in Florida cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; §559.955; Charlotte County zoning for home occupation

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state baseline applies. Charlotte County (county seat: Punta Gorda) is on Florida's Gulf Coast, popular retirement community. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. Florida's cottage food framework is producer-friendly.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.charlottecounty.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/charlotte-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Charlotte County	Sarasota County	Highlands County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.	No specific state restriction; however Sarasota County home occupation rules apply to home-based businesses generally.	No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.	Sales from home, at farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No sales at venues that require a food permit. Cotta...	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (except wholesale) permitted. \$250,000 annu...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Florida cottage food law (\$500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection...	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. \$500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...	Florida uses a broad non-TCS standard — any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety is allowed. Annual sales cap of ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring temperature control for safety (meat, dairy requiring refrigeration, custard-filled pastries, raw sprou...
POPULATION	189,900	439,392	102,339

State context — Florida cottage food law

Charlotte 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 Charlotte 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/charlotte-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 Charlotte 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/charlotte-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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