

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Gulf County

Florida · — · FIPS 12045 · Population 15,876 · Crosodo Index #3069\*

## STATE BASELINE

Fla. Stat. \$500.80; FL tier: Great

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

250000

## 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

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

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**True**

### STATE SALES CAP

**250000**

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Likely; verify with Gulf County**

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**True**

### INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint only**

### PETS

**No state or county-specific rule for cottage food**

### 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: GULF COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3069\* · FIPS 12045 · —

## Gulf County

Population 15,876 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80; FL tier: Great · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

## PETS ALLOWED?

No state or county-specific rule for cottage food

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Likely; verify with Gulf County (No Gulf County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small coastal Panhandle county (pop. ~16,000) with county seat Port Saint Joe. Still recovering from 2018 Hurricane Michael impacts. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint only (State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7); county cannot add inspections)

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN False

PET RESTRICTIONS No state or county-specific rule for cottage food

WATER SUPPLY No state requirement for cottage food; county may have residential water standards

HANDWASHING No state requirement for cottage food registration; standard GMP expected

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage

## Inspection &amp; permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Upon-complaint only — State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7); county cannot add inspections

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Likely; verify with Gulf County — No Gulf County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small coastal Panhandle county (pop. ~16,000) with county seat Port Saint Joe. Still recovering from 2018 Hurricane Michael impacts. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Likely; Gulf County local business tax receipt; contact Gulf County Tax Collector

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP True

ON-SITE SIGNAGE Must comply with Gulf County signage ordinances

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer; online/mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/consignment; max \$250,000 annual gross sales

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No state limit; local home occupation rules may apply

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No Gulf County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance surfaced in search. Small Florida Panhandle coastal county. State baseline (Fla. Stat. §500.80) governs; county cannot restrict cottage food production.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdGulf/>

<https://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/building-zoning>

<https://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov>

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/Cottage-Food-Operations.pdf>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS425>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/florida/gulf-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/gulf-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Gulf County                                                                                                                                             | Calhoun County                                                                                                                                   | Franklin County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | <b>True</b>                                                                                                                                             | True                                                                                                                                             | True                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | <b>False</b>                                                                                                                                            | False                                                                                                                                            | False                                                                                                                                            |
| PETS ALLOWED               | <b>No state or county-specific rule for cottage food</b>                                                                                                | No state or county-specific rule for cottage food                                                                                                | No state or county-specific rule for cottage food                                                                                                |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | <b>Upon-complaint only</b>                                                                                                                              | Upon-complaint only                                                                                                                              | Upon-complaint only                                                                                                                              |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | <b>True</b>                                                                                                                                             | True                                                                                                                                             | True                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | <b>Must comply with Gulf County signage ordinances</b>                                                                                                  | Must comply with Calhoun County signage ordinances                                                                                               | Must comply with Franklin County signage ordinances                                                                                              |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | <b>Direct-to-consumer; online/ mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/ consignm...</b> | Direct-to-consumer; online/ mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/ consignm... | Direct-to-consumer; online/ mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/ consignm... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | <b>Likely; verify with Gulf County</b>                                                                                                                  | Likely; verify with Calhoun County                                                                                                               | Likely; verify with Franklin County                                                                                                              |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | <b>Likely; Gulf County local business tax receipt; contact Gulf County Tax Collector</b>                                                                | Likely; Calhoun County local business tax receipt; contact Calhoun County Tax Collector                                                          | Likely; Franklin County local business tax receipt; contact Franklin County Tax Collector                                                        |
| RESTRICTIONS               | —                                                                                                                                                       | —                                                                                                                                                | —                                                                                                                                                |
| FOOD STORAGE               | <b>Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage</b>                                                                       | Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage                                                                       | Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage                                                                       |
| POPULATION                 | <b>15,002</b>                                                                                                                                           | 13,753                                                                                                                                           | 12,276                                                                                                                                           |

## State context — Florida cottage food law

Gulf 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](https://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](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 Gulf 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/gulf-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/gulf-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Gulf County, Florida. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/gulf-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/gulf-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)