

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hardee County

Florida · — · FIPS 12049 · Population 26,068 · Crosodo Index #3073*

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

Hardee 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 Hardee County Building & Zoning

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: HARDEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3073* · FIPS 12049 · —

Hardee County

Population 26,068 · 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 Hardee County Building & Zoning (No Hardee County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small agricultural/citrus county (pop. ~27,000) with county seat Wauchula. 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 & 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 Hardee County Building & Zoning — No Hardee County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small agricultural/citrus county (pop. ~27,000) with county seat Wauchula. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.

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

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP True

ON-SITE SIGNAGE Must comply with Hardee 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 Hardee County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance surfaced in search. Small agricultural county in central Florida. State baseline (Fla. Stat. §500.80) governs; county cannot restrict cottage food production.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.hardeecounty.net/building-zoning>

<https://www.hardeecounty.net>

<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/hardee-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hardee County	DeSoto County	Highlands County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state or county-specific rule for cottage food	No state or county-specific rule for cottage food	No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint only	Upon-complaint only	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Must comply with Hardee County signage ordinances	Must comply with DeSoto County signage ordinances	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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...	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (except wholesale) permitted. \$250,000 annu...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning	Likely; verify with DeSoto County Building & Zoning	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Likely; Hardee County local business tax receipt; contact Hardee County Tax Collector	Likely; DeSoto County local business tax receipt; contact DeSoto County Tax Collector	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	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 (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage	Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage	Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring temperature control for safety (meat, dairy requiring refrigeration, custard-filled pastries, raw sprou...
POPULATION	25,528	34,258	102,339

State context — Florida cottage food law

Hardee 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 Hardee 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/hardee-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 Hardee 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/hardee-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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