

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Highlands County

Florida · Sebring · FIPS 12055 · Population 102,339 · Crosodo
Index #1231*

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

Highlands 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 specific state restriction in the 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: HIGHLANDS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1231* · FIPS 12055 · Sebring

Highlands County

Population 102,339 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida uses a broad non-TCS standard — any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety is allowed. Annual sales cap of \$250,000 (raised in 2021). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)) — local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations, though business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida state preemption (§500.80(6)) prevents local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, home-based business rules under §559.955 may still apply in Highlands County. Highlands County may have general home occupation/zoning rules applicable to the business operation aspect. No specific Highlands County cottage food restriction identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Florida uses a broad non-TCS standard — any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety is allowed. Annual sales cap of \$250,000 (raised in 2021). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)) — local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations, though business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices recommended but not legally mandated.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring temperature control for safety (meat, dairy requiring refrigeration, custard-filled pastries, raw sprouts) prohibited. No wholesale sales permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Inspections may only occur upon receipt of a complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine inspections.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Florida state preemption (§500.80(6)) prevents local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, home-based business rules under §559.955 may still apply in Highlands County. Highlands County may have general home occupation/zoning rules applicable to the business operation aspect. No specific Highlands County cottage food restriction identified.

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-to-consumer and indirect sales (except wholesale) permitted. \$250,000 annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Highlands County code section identified. State law governs: Fla. Stat. §500.80. State preemption prevents local restrictions.

RESEARCH NOTES

Highlands County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Florida's strong state preemption means local governments cannot restrict cottage food. \$250,000 cap is among the highest in the country. No county-specific restrictions found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.highlandscounty.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/highlands-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Highlands County	Charlotte County	Osceola County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.	No specific state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (except wholesale) permitted. \$250,000 annu...	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
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 ...	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...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring temperature control for safety (meat, dairy requiring refrigeration, custard-filled pastries, raw sprou...	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.
POPULATION	102,339	189,900	393,745

State context — Florida cottage food law

Highlands 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 Highlands 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/highlands-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 Highlands 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/highlands-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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