

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

Florida · Tavares · FIPS 12069 · Population 386,829 · Crosodo
Index #1203*

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

Lake 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.

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: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1203* · FIPS 12069 · Tavares

Lake County

Population 386,829 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TCS. Annual gross sales cap \$250,000. Products must be prepackaged with required label. State preempts local regulation of cottage food. Lake County home occupation rules apply for zoning compliance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lake County requires home occupation compliance and local business tax receipt for home-based businesses. State preempts local restrictions on cottage food production/storage/sale, but local ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours still apply.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State may inspect only upon consumer complaint per §500.80(7).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TCS. Annual gross sales cap \$250,000. Products must be prepackaged with required label. State preempts local regulation of cottage food. Lake County home occupation rules apply for zoning compliance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State may inspect only upon consumer complaint per §500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lake County requires home occupation compliance and local business tax receipt for home-based businesses. State preempts local restrictions on cottage food production/storage/sale, but local ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours still apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local home occupation rules may restrict.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; Lake County Code (home occupation and business tax receipt provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state cottage food law is well-documented. Lake County follows state baseline. \$250,000 cap. Strong state preemption. Business tax receipt required locally. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Lake County local rules not directly verified from .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://lake.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lake County	Osceola County	Marion County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction.	No specific state restriction.	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	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. 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	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. \$500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. \$500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...	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 shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.
POPULATION	386,829	393,745	378,225

State context — Florida cottage food law

Lake 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 Lake 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/lake-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 Lake 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/lake-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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