

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lee County

Florida · Fort Myers · FIPS 12071 · Population 772,902 ·
Crosodo Index #924*

STATE BASELINE

Fla. Stat. §500.80 (Home Sweet Home Act, 2021); annual cap \$250,000

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

250000

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

LAST VERIFIED

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

Lee 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

Not specified in state law; no contamination

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: LEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #924* · FIPS 12071 · Fort Myers

Lee County

Population 772,902 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 (Home Sweet Home Act, 2021); annual cap \$250,000 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida strong state preemption: local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations. Must be produced in operator's home kitchen only (no garages, sheds, motor homes). Non-TCS foods only. Production and storage in single-family domestic residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law; no contamination

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State preemption (§500.80(6)) prevents local restriction on cottage food operations. However, Lee County and municipalities (Fort Myers, Cape Coral, etc.) can regulate traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours. Contact Lee County Community Development for any applicable home occupation standard. Business tax receipt from Lee County Tax Collector may be required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint only per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7). Lee County Health Department has no additional inspection authority.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Florida strong state preemption: local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations. Must be produced in operator's home kitchen only (no garages, sheds, motor homes). Non-TCS foods only. Production and storage in single-family domestic residence.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state law; no contamination

WATER SUPPLY

Only potable water from properly constructed on-site well or municipal water system

HANDWASHING

Standard sanitation practices

FOOD STORAGE

Storage in single-family domestic residence only; no garage/shed/barn/outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Complaint only per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7). Lee County Health Department has no additional inspection authority.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — State preemption (§500.80(6)) prevents local restriction on cottage food operations. However, Lee County and municipalities (Fort Myers, Cape Coral, etc.) can regulate traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours. Contact Lee County Community Development for any applicable home occupation standard. Business tax receipt from Lee County Tax Collector may be required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Home, online, mail-order, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands. Mail delivery permitted. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores. \$250,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; local traffic/parking/noise/signage ordinances still apply

RESEARCH NOTES

Lee County follows Florida state baseline. Strong state preemption means Lee County and its municipalities cannot restrict cottage food operations beyond traffic/parking/noise/signage/hours. Lee County Health Department (lee.floridahealth.gov) has no inspection authority beyond complaints. The county experienced significant growth post-Hurricane Ian (2022).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://lee.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.leegov.com/dcd>

<https://www.leegov.com>

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/florida/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lee County	Collier County	Charlotte County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law; no contamination	No specific state restriction.	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Home, online, mail-order, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands. Mail delivery permitted. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery s...	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Florida strong state preemption: local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations. Must be produced in operator's home kitchen onl...	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 (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection...
FOOD STORAGE	Storage in single-family domestic residence only; no garage/shed/barn/outbuilding storage	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage.
POPULATION	772,902	380,221	189,900

State context — Florida cottage food law

Lee 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 Lee 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/lee-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 Lee 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/lee-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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