

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Seminole County

Florida · Sanford · FIPS 12117 · Population 471,321 · Crosodo
Index #1497*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. \$500.80	Great	250000	HIGH	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

Seminole 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens; standard food safety hygiene applies.

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: SEMINOLE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1497* · FIPS 12117 · Sanford

Seminole County

Population 471,321 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida §500.80 requires production in the operator's residential kitchen only. Rented and commercial kitchens are not eligible. Florida preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)); Seminole County cannot prohibit or restrict cottage food preparation, processing, storage, or sale. The cottage food operation must comply with §559.955 home-based business conditions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens; standard food safety hygiene applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Seminole County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. CityRuleLookup (sourcing Municode Library, Seminole County, verified ~1 year ago) indicates a local business tax receipt and/or home occupation permit may be required. Florida §559.955 limits local authority: local governments may not impose requirements on home-based businesses more restrictive than those for residences without businesses; only business tax receipts (chapter 205) and reasonable traffic/parking/signage rules are permissible. The Land Development Code of Seminole County governs unincorporated areas. Cities within the county (Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, Winter Springs) have their own rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (FDACS may inspect only upon receipt of a complaint (§500.80(7))). No routine inspections. Seminole County Health Department cannot conduct food safety inspections of cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Florida §500.80 requires production in the operator's residential kitchen only. Rented and commercial kitchens are not eligible. Florida preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)); Seminole County cannot prohibit or restrict cottage food preparation, processing, storage, or sale. The cottage food operation must comply with §559.955 home-based business conditions.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens; standard food safety hygiene applies.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water from properly constructed on-site well or municipal water system required per FDACS guidance.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety guidance.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored on the premises of the cottage food operation per §500.80(4).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — FDACS may inspect only upon receipt of a complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine inspections. Seminole County Health Department cannot conduct food safety inspections of cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Seminole County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. CityRuleLookup (sourcing Municode Library, Seminole County, verified ~1 year ago) indicates a local business tax receipt and/or home occupation permit may be required. Florida §559.955 limits local authority: local governments may not impose requirements on home-based businesses more restrictive than those for residences without businesses; only business tax receipts (chapter 205) and reasonable traffic/parking/signage rules are permissible. The Land Development Code of Seminole County governs unincorporated areas. Cities within the county (Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, Winter Springs) have their own rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under Florida §500.80(2), products may be delivered in person to consumer, specific event venue, or by USPS/commercial carrier. Online orders and mail-order accepted. No wholesale. On-site pickup allowed if consistent with residential character. County and municipal traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours ordinances still apply per §500.80(6) exception.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Up to 2 non-resident employees or independent contractors per Florida §559.955(3)(a); additional remote employees permitted.

Relevant county code

Seminole County Land Development Code (unincorporated areas); Fla. Stat. §500.80; Fla. Stat. §559.955

RESEARCH NOTES

Seminole County (pop. ~471K, county seat Sanford, Orlando suburb) follows the Florida state preemption framework for cottage food. Florida §500.80(6) and §559.955 together create strong state preemption: FDACS guidance explicitly states 'No. The regulation of cottage food operations is preempted to the state. A local law, ordinance, or regulation may not prohibit a cottage food operation.' The county's codes-and-regulations page confirms the Land Development Code governs unincorporated Seminole County. CityRuleLookup (sourcing Seminole County Municode, verified ~1 year ago) confirms home occupation permit/business tax receipt required in addition to state rules. City-specific rules exist for Sanford, Altamonte Springs, and others — residents in incorporated areas must check their city code. The \$250,000 annual gross sales cap applies statewide. Confidence is high for the state preemption baseline; the local business tax receipt/home occupation permit requirement adds a medium-confidence local layer confirmed by CityRuleLookup.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://seminole.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov>

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/development-services/planning-development/codes-regulations>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/seminole-county-fl>

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/CottageFoodOperations.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Seminole County	Volusia County	Lake County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens; standard food safety hygiene applies.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction	No specific state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under Florida §500.80(2), products may be delivered in person to consumer, specific event venue, or by USPS/ commercial carrier. Online orde...	No restrictions on sales venues. Online sales and mail/ delivery permitted including across state lines. No wholesale to retail stores or re...	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	No	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	No	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Florida §500.80 requires production in the operator's residential kitchen only. Rented and commercial kitchens are not eligible. Florida pr...	Any non-TCS food that does not require temperature control for safety. No license, permit, registration, or inspection required before oper...	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored on the premises of the cottage food operation per §500.80(4).	Standard home kitchen storage for shelf-stable non-TCS products	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.
POPULATION	471,321	558,520	386,829

State context — Florida cottage food law

Seminole 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 Seminole 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/seminole-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 Seminole 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/seminole-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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