

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sumter County

Florida · Bushnell · FIPS 12119 · Population 131,832 · Crosodo
Index #2136*

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

Sumter County, Florida — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

250000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

**Not prohibited by state statute;
kitchen sanitation recommended.**

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: SUMTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2136* · FIPS 12119 · Bushnell

Sumter County

Population 131,832 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual gross sales capped at \$250,000. No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. No food handler certification required. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). Business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen sanitation recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (State law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). However, Sumter County home-based business rules under §559.955 may still apply. Sumter County is notable as home to The Villages (large retirement community). Local HOA rules within The Villages may also apply but are separate from government regulations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections may only occur upon receipt of a complaint per §500.80(7).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Annual gross sales capped at \$250,000. No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. No food handler certification required. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). Business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen sanitation recommended.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required (good practice).

HANDWASHING

Required per good food safety practices; no state mandate for cottage food.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only. Stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Inspections may only occur upon receipt of a complaint per §500.80(7).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — State law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). However, Sumter County home-based business rules under §559.955 may still apply. Sumter County is notable as home to The Villages (large retirement community). Local HOA rules within The Villages may also apply but are separate from government regulations.

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 and indirect sales allowed. Sales must remain within Florida (no interstate shipping of cottage food products).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; Fla. Stat. §559.955 (home-based business rules).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (FL) confirmed: Fla. Stat. §500.80, \$250,000 cap, no registration required, strong preemption. Sumter County is unique as home of The Villages retirement community, the largest master-planned retirement community in the US. Local HOA rules may impose separate (non-governmental) restrictions within The Villages community. No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sumtercounty.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/sumter-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sumter County	Citrus County	Hernando County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen sanitation recommended.	No state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct and indirect sales allowed. Sales must remain within Florida (no interstat...	Direct sales, online sales, mail-order delivery all expressly permitted under state law. Customer pickup at home limited by county home occ...	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual gross sales capped at \$250,000. No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. No food handler certifi...	Florida allows cottage food from home kitchens with no registration, permit, or inspection required before operations. No food handler cert...	Florida cottage food law (\$500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage required.	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage practices.
POPULATION	131,832	155,173	196,621

State context — Florida cottage food law

Sumter 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 Sumter 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/sumter-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 Sumter 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/sumter-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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