

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Calcasieu Parish

Louisiana · Lake Charles · FIPS 22019 · Population 210,770 ·  
Crosodo Index #2424\*

| STATE BASELINE    | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| La. R.S. §40:4.13 | Okay       | 30000                    | 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

Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**30000**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Yes**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Conditional**

INSPECTION

**No**

PETS

**Louisiana law requires pets to be excluded from preparation areas for baked goods (breads/cakes/cookies/pies). Pets must be excluded at all times during production.**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Louisiana 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
- ☐ Louisiana home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Louisiana label one-pager →](#)

**Local notes & questions →**

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

## LOUISIANA: CALCASIEU PARISH

CROSODO INDEX #2424\* · FIPS 22019 · Lake Charles

## Calcasieu Parish

Population 210,770 · State baseline: La. R.S. §40:4.13 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Louisiana cottage food law allows low-risk non-perishable foods (baked goods, candies, jams, pickles, spices, etc.) with no food license required under state law. Annual sales cap: \$30,000. Custard/cream-filled bakery products allowed only if made with pasteurized dairy and proper temperature requirements. Foods with animal muscle protein or fish protein excluded. Calcasieu Parish requires a home occupation permit as an accessory use in residential zones, plus a business license.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Louisiana law requires pets to be excluded from preparation areas for baked goods (breads/cakes/cookies/pies). Pets must be excluded at all times during production.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Calcasieu Parish requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses as an accessory use in residential zones. A business license is also typically required. Business must be secondary to residential use; no external signage; limited customer visits; no hazardous materials. Cities within Calcasieu Parish (Lake Charles, Sulphur, Westlake) have their own separate rules.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required under Louisiana cottage food law. Louisiana Department of Health may investigate upon complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Louisiana cottage food law allows low-risk non-perishable foods (baked goods, candies, jams, pickles, spices, etc.) with no food license required under state law. Annual sales cap: \$30,000. Custard/cream-filled bakery products allowed only if made with pasteurized dairy and proper temperature requirements. Foods with animal muscle protein or fish protein excluded. Calcasieu Parish requires a home occupation permit as an accessory use in residential zones, plus a business license. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Louisiana law requires pets to be excluded from preparation areas for baked goods (breads/cakes/cookies/pies). Pets must be excluded at all times during production.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| WATER SUPPLY               | No specific water testing requirement documented for Louisiana cottage food operations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard handwashing; no specific statutory handwashing requirement in Louisiana cottage food law.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Refrigeration must be maintained at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients in baked goods categories. Equipment sanitation requirements apply for baked goods producers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Inspection & permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No routine inspection required under Louisiana cottage food law. Louisiana Department of Health may investigate upon complaint.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Yes — Calcasieu Parish requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses as an accessory use in residential zones. A business license is also typically required. Business must be secondary to residential use; no external signage; limited customer visits; no hazardous materials. Cities within Calcasieu Parish (Lake Charles, Sulphur, Westlake) have their own separate rules. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Louisiana cottage food law permits sales at events, farmers markets, from home, and through indirect channels for most low-risk foods (except four baked goods categories which are direct-sale only). A sales tax certificate from the parish of sale required before selling. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Louisiana law requires baked goods (breads/cakes/cookies/pies) to have no employees assist in production (sole producer). Home occupation permit: typically no or minimal on-site employees allowed.                                                                            |

## Relevant county code

La. R.S. §40:4.13 (or §40:4.9); Calcasieu Parish Code of Ordinances (home occupation permit); Louisiana sales tax certificate requirement

### RESEARCH NOTES

Louisiana state baseline confirmed. Calcasieu Parish (county seat: Lake Charles) is in southwestern Louisiana; parish includes Lake Charles city. Home occupation permit requirement confirmed from CityRuleLookup (references Calcasieu Parish Code of Ordinances). Louisiana has a unique restriction: baked goods (breads/cakes/cookies/pies) specifically require no employee assistance in production and pets must be excluded from prep areas. Sales tax certificate from the parish of sale required. The \$30,000 cap was raised from \$20,000 by HB 828 (Act 357, 2022). Note: CityRuleLookup references RS 40:4.14 for the cottage food law, while state baseline cites §40:4.13; both may reference different sections of Louisiana's food law framework.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.calcasieuparish.gov>

<https://ldh.la.gov/page/cottage-food-laws>

<https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=98863>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/calcasieu-parish-la>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/calcasieu-parish-la>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/calcasieu-parish-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/calcasieu-parish-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Calcasieu Parish                                                                                                                               | Beauregard Parish                                                                                                                               | Cameron Parish                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Louisiana law requires pets to be excluded from preparation areas for baked goods (breads/cakes/cookies/pies). Pets must be excluded at all... | Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas                                                                                               | Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas                                                                                               |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | No                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Louisiana cottage food law permits sales at events, farmers markets, from home, and through indirect channels for most low-risk foods (exce... | Direct-to-consumer (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, events, online within LA, mail within LA). Big Four direct-to-consumer o...  | Direct-to-consumer (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, events, online within LA, mail within LA). Big Four direct-to-consumer o...  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Louisiana cottage food law allows low-risk non-perishable foods (baked goods, candies, jams, pickles, spices, etc.) with no food license re... | Annual sales cap \$30,000. No license, permit, or registration required (only sales tax certificates from LA Dept of Revenue and local paris... | Annual sales cap \$30,000. No license, permit, or registration required (only sales tax certificates from LA Dept of Revenue and local paris... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Refrigeration must be maintained at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients in baked goods categories. Equipment sanitation requirements a... | Refrigeration at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients; appropriate storage for shelf-stable products                                        | Refrigeration at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients; appropriate storage for shelf-stable products                                        |
| POPULATION                 | 210,770                                                                                                                                        | 36,553                                                                                                                                          | 5,447                                                                                                                                           |

## State context — Louisiana cottage food law

Calcasieu Parish's rules sit on top of Louisiana's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| STATUTE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| La. R.S. §40:4.13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 30000             |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | No                |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | No                |
| INDIRECT SALES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| Limited (see notes) — Most low-risk foods may be sold indirectly (to restaurants, retail stores), but breads, cakes, cookies, and pies specifically may NOT be sold to any retail business or individual for resale — they are direct-to-consumer only. |                   |

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Louisiana cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/louisiana](https://crosodo.com/states/louisiana).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=98863>

State dept cottage food page: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/cottage-food-laws>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/louisiana/>

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**Questions about Calcasieu Parish?** 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/louisiana/calcasieu-parish-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/calcasieu-parish-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/louisiana/calcasieu-parish-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/calcasieu-parish-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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