

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Franklin County

Maine · Farmington · FIPS 23007 · Population 30,902 ·
Crosodo Index #1302*

STATE BASELINE

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act)

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

Franklin County, Maine — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Maine label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

MAINE: FRANKLIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1302* · FIPS 23007 · Farmington

Franklin County

Population 30,902 · State baseline: 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act) · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License from ME DACF — requires kitchen inspection, well/septic testing if applicable, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances — in participating municipalities, nearly any food allowed for direct producer-to-consumer transactions. Franklin County municipalities with food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader foods including perishables.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Franklin County municipalities vary in whether they have adopted food sovereignty ordinances (localfoodrules.org confirms Franklin County is listed among counties with food sovereign communities). Individual towns within Franklin County administer their own zoning; consult each town for home occupation permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations for statewide Home Food Processor License. Local food sovereignty ordinances may not require inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License from ME DACF — requires kitchen inspection, well/septic testing if applicable, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances — in participating municipalities, nearly any food allowed for direct producer-to-consumer transactions. Franklin County municipalities with food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader foods including perishables.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required. Private well users must provide water test results (coliforms, nitrates, nitrites) for statewide home food processor license.
HANDWASHING	Required per Maine food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods required under statewide license. Acidified foods and low-sugar jams may require University of Maine lab approval. Local food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader storage requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations for statewide Home Food Processor License. Local food sovereignty ordinances may not require inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Franklin County municipalities vary in whether they have adopted food sovereignty ordinances (localfoodrules.org confirms Franklin County is listed among counties with food sovereign communities). Individual towns within Franklin County administer their own zoning; consult each town for home occupation permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under statewide license: direct and indirect sales allowed. Under food sovereignty ordinances: direct producer-to-consumer sales allowed, including most food types. Sellers at farmers markets also need a Mobile Food Vendor license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specifically restricted under statewide license framework.

Relevant county code

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); ME DACF Home Food Processor License requirements; individual town ordinances.

RESEARCH NOTES

Maine state baseline applied: Food Sovereignty Act (7 M.R.S.A. §282) plus statewide Home Food Processor License pathway. Franklin County is confirmed as having food sovereign communities per localfoodrules.org. The two-pathway system means producers should verify which pathway applies in their specific municipality. PL 2025, c. 309 expanded the Food Sovereignty Act definitions in 2025. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.franklincounty.gov>

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml

<https://www.localfoodrules.org/food-sovereignty-by-county/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Franklin County	Androscoggin County	Kennebec County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during producti...	Under statewide license pathway: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during ...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under statewide license: direct and indirect sales allowed. Under food sovereignty ordinances: direct producer-to-consumer sales allowed, i...	Maine allows direct sales under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Maine allows direct sales (farmers markets, home, events) under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor l...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License from ME DACF — requires kitchen inspection, well/septic testing if applicable, most...	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF, well/septic testing if applicable);...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods required under statewide license. Acidified foods and low-sugar jams may require University of Maine lab approval. Local...	Shelf-stable non-TCS products for statewide license. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine a...	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University...
POPULATION	29,839	111,532	124,003

State context — Maine cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Under the statewide Home Food Processor License, producers may sell at any venue including restaurants, retail stores, farmers markets, and online, with no sales limit; indirect wholesale and retail channels are allowed once licensed and kitchen-inspected.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Maine cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/maine.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/7/title7sec282.html>

State dept cottage food page: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml

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

Questions about Franklin 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/maine/franklin-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 Franklin County, Maine. 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/maine/franklin-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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