

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Oxford County

Maine · Paris · FIPS 23017 · Population 58,276 · Crosodo Index #1971*

STATE BASELINE

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); Maine Home Food Processor License

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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

Oxford 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restrictions per GMP.

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: OXFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1971* · FIPS 23017 · Paris

Oxford County

Population 58,276 · State baseline: 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); Maine Home Food Processor License · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing if applicable. Most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance (Food Sovereignty Act) — in municipalities that have adopted an ordinance, almost any food can be sold direct to consumers without state licensing. Oxford County municipalities must be checked individually.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restrictions per GMP.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Oxford County municipalities vary. Under the Food Sovereignty Act pathway, municipalities with adopted ordinances allow direct producer-to-consumer sales. Operators should check with their specific town in Oxford County.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required for the statewide Home Food Processor License by DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations. Complaint-based inspection possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing if applicable. Most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance (Food Sovereignty Act) — in municipalities that have adopted an ordinance, almost any food can be sold direct to consumers without state licensing. Oxford County municipalities must be checked individually.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restrictions per GMP.
WATER SUPPLY	Private well or septic requires testing under the statewide Home Food Processor License pathway.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of kitchen inspection under the statewide license pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-TCS products required under statewide license; Food Sovereignty Act pathway has fewer restrictions.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required for the statewide Home Food Processor License by DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations. Complaint-based inspection possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Oxford County municipalities vary. Under the Food Sovereignty Act pathway, municipalities with adopted ordinances allow direct producer-to-consumer sales. Operators should check with their specific town in Oxford County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under statewide license: farmers markets, home sales, events. Under Food Sovereignty Act: direct-to-consumer including home sales, farmers markets, and other venues. Farmers market sellers also need a Mobile Food Vendor license under the statewide pathway.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Check individual Oxford County municipalities for Food Sovereignty Ordinances (over 80 Maine municipalities have adopted them as of 2025).

RESEARCH NOTES

Maine's dual-pathway system is unique. Oxford County is a rural western Maine county. Many Maine towns have adopted Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances allowing broader sales without state licensing. The Food Sovereignty Act was amended by PL 2025, c. 309. Acidified foods under the statewide license require University of Maine lab approval (~\$26-39/product). Maine's Constitution Article I, Section 25 (Right to Food, 2021) provides additional legal foundation.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.oxfordcounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Oxford County	Androscoggin County	York County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restri...	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during producti...	Maine statewide Home Food Processor License rules prohibit 'uncontrolled children' in the kitchen during production. Pet restrictions apply...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under statewide license: farmers markets, home sales, events. Under Food Sovereignty Act: direct-to-consumer including home sales, farmers ...	Maine allows direct sales under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Statewide license pathway: most sales channels permitted; farmers market vendors need additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereign...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing i...	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 Maine DACF, well/septic testing if not on...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-TCS products required under statewide license; Food Sovereignty Act pathway has fewer restrictions.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products for statewide license. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine a...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods under the statewide license. Acidified foods (salsas, pickles, certain dressings) require prior University of Ma...
POPULATION	58,276	111,532	212,691

State context — Maine cottage food law

Oxford 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 Oxford 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/oxford-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 Oxford 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/oxford-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise