

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Washington County

Maine · Machias · FIPS 23029 · Population 31,383 · Crosodo  
Index #1270\*

## 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

Washington 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: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.**

### 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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1270\* · FIPS 23029 · Machias

## Washington County

Population 31,383 · 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. Washington County is Maine's easternmost and most rural county (Downeast Maine).)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Under statewide license: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County municipalities vary; Washington County is confirmed as having food sovereign communities (localfoodrules.org). Individual towns within Washington County administer their own zoning. Many areas are unorganized territories.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF 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. Washington County is Maine's easternmost and most rural county (Downeast Maine).

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

Under statewide license: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.

## WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required. Private well users must provide water test results for statewide home food processor license.

## HANDWASHING

Required per Maine food safety standards.

## FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable foods required under statewide license. Acidified foods may require University of Maine lab approval.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF for statewide Home Food Processor License. Local food sovereignty ordinances may not require inspection.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Washington County municipalities vary; Washington County is confirmed as having food sovereign communities (localfoodrules.org). Individual towns within Washington County administer their own zoning. Many areas are unorganized territories.

## 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. Sellers at farmers markets 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; ME DACF Home Food Processor License requirements; individual town/plantation ordinances.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Maine state baseline applied. Washington County confirmed as having food sovereign communities per localfoodrules.org. Washington County is Downeast Maine — large, rural, with significant Native American communities and blueberry farming. Many unorganized territories exist. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.washingtoncounty.gov>

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home\\_food\\_processor.shtml](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/washington-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maine/washington-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Washington County                                                                                                                              | Aroostook County                                                                                                                               | Hancock County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Under statewide license: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.                                                   | Not specified in state law                                                                                                                     | Under statewide license pathway: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production. Standard sanitation applies for pets.        |
| 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. S... | Direct and indirect sales allowed; no out-of-state sales                                                                                       | Under statewide license: sales at farm, farm stands, farmers markets (with additional license), and home direct sales. Under food sovereign... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| 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... | Kitchen inspection required for home food processor license. Registration required. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales allowed. Perishab... | Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License requires kitchen inspection by DACF, well/septic testing if not on public systems, ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable foods required under statewide license. Acidified foods may require University of Maine lab approval.                             | Appropriate storage; no perishable items under home processor pathway                                                                          | Under statewide license: non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Under food sovereignty: broader including potentially hazardous foods if sold ... |
| POPULATION                 | 31,096                                                                                                                                         | 67,237                                                                                                                                         | 55,851                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Maine cottage food law

Washington 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](https://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](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml)

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

**Questions about Washington 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/washington-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maine/washington-county-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 Washington County, Maine. 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/maine/washington-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maine/washington-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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