

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Belknap County

New Hampshire · Laconia · FIPS 33001 · Population 63,914 ·
Crosodo Index #2403*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
RSA §143-A:12	Good	Tiered	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

Belknap County, New Hampshire — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

Open the live county page →

New Hampshire label one-pager →

Local notes & questions →

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE: BELKNAP COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2403* · FIPS 33001 · Laconia

Belnap County

Population 63,914 · State baseline: RSA §143-A:12 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-PHF homestead food products from operator's primary home kitchen may be sold without a license below the annual sales threshold. Above threshold, or for internet/mail/wholesale/restaurant sales, a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) is required. Food handler cert not required but recommended.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Belnap County is in the Lakes Region of NH with county seat Laconia. County govt URL confirmed at belnapcounty.gov. No specific county-level home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Belnap County Planning or City of Laconia for local zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based; NH DHHS may inspect upon complaint)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-PHF homestead food products from operator's primary home kitchen may be sold without a license below the annual sales threshold. Above threshold, or for internet/mail/wholesale/restaurant sales, a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) is required. Food handler cert not required but recommended.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; well/septic testing may be required for license applications

HANDWASHING

Handwashing facilities required

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; processed acidified/low-acid canned foods prohibited

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Complaint-based; NH DHHS may inspect upon complaint

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Belnap County is in the Lakes Region of NH with county seat Laconia. County govt URL confirmed at belnapcounty.gov. No specific county-level home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Belnap County Planning or City of Laconia for local zoning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Below sales threshold: sales from homestead, farm stand, farmers markets, retail food stores permitted without license. Above threshold: Class H Homestead License required for internet/mail/wholesale/restaurant sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Belknap County or City of Laconia for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

New Hampshire uses 'Homestead Food License' term. Two-tier: below sales cap (amount unknown, listed as 'tiered' in baseline), no license needed; above cap or internet/wholesale/restaurant, Class H license required at \$150. Belknap County is Lakes Region including Lake Winnepesaukee. County govt URL confirmed. No specific county restrictions found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.belknapcounty.gov>

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/food-protection/homestead-food-licensing>

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/X/143-A/143-A-mrg.htm>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Belknap County	Carroll County	Grafton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	Not specified in state law.	Pets must be excluded from the food production area during all food production activities.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Below sales threshold: sales from homestead, farm stand, farmers markets, retail food stores permitted without license. Above threshold: Cl...	Below threshold: sales from homestead, farm stand, farmers markets, and retail stores allowed without license. Above threshold: Class H lic...	Homestead food products may be sold from the homestead residence, at the owner's farm stand, at farmers markets, and at retail food stores ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-PHF homestead food products from operator's primary home kitchen may be sold without a license below the annual sales threshold. Above ...	Must be primary home kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous homestead food products only. Below the sales cap threshold: no license required fo...	Production must occur in the operator's primary residence home kitchen or a designated food production area within the primary residence. A...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; processed acidified/low-acid canned foods prohibited	Products must be non-potentially hazardous.	Food, equipment, and utensils must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.
POPULATION	63,914	50,679	90,836

State context — New Hampshire cottage food law

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

STATUTE

RSA §143-A:12

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Depends

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Exempt operations (below sales cap) may sell at retail food stores without a license. Sales to restaurants, over the internet, by mail order, or to wholesalers/distributors require a Class H Homestead License under RSA 143-A:4. The department may inspect upon suspicion of imminent health hazard but does not conduct routine inspections of exempt operations.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/X/143-A/143-A-mrg.htm>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/food-protection/homestead-food-licensing>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/new-hampshire/>

Questions about Belnap 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/new-hampshire/belnap-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 Belknap County, New Hampshire. 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/new-hampshire/belknap-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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