

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cheshire County

New Hampshire · Keene · FIPS 33005 · Population 76,610 ·
Crosodo Index #1720*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in state statute.

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: CHESHIRE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1720* · FIPS 33005 · Keene

Cheshire County

Population 76,610 · State baseline: RSA §143-A:12 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-potentially-hazardous homestead food products prepared in the operator's primary home kitchen. Below the sales threshold, may sell from homestead residence, farm stand, farmers markets, and retail food stores without a license. Above threshold or for internet/mail order/restaurant sales, a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) is required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No local home occupation permit required for exempt/below-threshold operations. Cheshire County does not appear to have a specific cottage food ordinance. Local zoning may apply.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (NH DHHS may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspection for below-threshold operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially-hazardous homestead food products prepared in the operator's primary home kitchen. Below the sales threshold, may sell from homestead residence, farm stand, farmers markets, and retail food stores without a license. Above threshold or for internet/mail order/restaurant sales, a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) is required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required at state level.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially-hazardous shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — NH DHHS may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspection for below-threshold operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No local home occupation permit required for exempt/below-threshold operations. Cheshire County does not appear to have a specific cottage food ordinance. Local zoning may apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Below sales threshold: may sell locally at homestead, farm stand, farmers markets, retail stores — no license needed. Above threshold or for internet/mail/restaurant/wholesale: Class H Homestead License required (\$150). 10-point font minimum for label text required.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

RSA §143-A:12. No Cheshire County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

New Hampshire uses a 'Homestead Food' framework with a two-tier licensing system. The exact sales threshold amount is described as 'tiered' but the specific dollar amount is 'unknown' per state baseline research. Class H Homestead License costs \$150. 10-point font label requirement. No Cheshire County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cheshirecounty.gov>

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

<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-hampshire/title-xi/section-143-a-12/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cheshire County	Hillsborough County	Sullivan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	No specific restriction in state homestead food law beyond standard food safety practices.	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Below sales threshold: may sell locally at homestead, farm stand, farmers markets, retail stores — no license needed. Above threshold or fo...	Below threshold: sell from home, farm stand, farmers markets, retail stores. Above threshold or for internet/mail/restaurant/wholesale: Cla...	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	—
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	—
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially-hazardous homestead food products prepared in the operator's primary home kitchen. Below the sales threshold, may sell from...	New Hampshire 'Homestead Food' law (RSA §143-A:12) allows non-PHF foods produced in the operator's primary home kitchen. Below the annual s...	—
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially-hazardous shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	—
POPULATION	76,610	422,733	43,356

State context — New Hampshire cottage food law

Cheshire 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
RSA §143-A:12	Tiered
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Depends	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	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 Cheshire 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/cheshire-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 Cheshire 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/cheshire-county-discuss

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