

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Grafton County

New Hampshire · North Haverhill · FIPS 33009 · Population
90,836 · Crosodo Index #2626*

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

Grafton 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Pets must be excluded from the food production area during all food production activities.

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: GRAFTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2626* · FIPS 33009 · North Haverhill

Grafton County

Population 90,836 · State baseline: RSA §143-A:12 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Production must occur in the operator's primary residence home kitchen or a designated food production area within the primary residence. Area must have handwashing station with hot/cold running potable water, soap, and sanitary drying; equipment/food storage preventing contamination; cleanable food contact surfaces; general sanitation; and pet exclusion during production. Commercial kitchen equipment is permitted if cleanable. Potentially hazardous foods are not allowed under the homestead food exemption.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be excluded from the food production area during all food production activities.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Grafton County is an unorganized/rural county in NH; individual towns govern zoning. Each town in Grafton County sets its own home occupation rules. Producers should check with their town's zoning office. Many NH towns permit low-traffic home-based food businesses without a special permit but some require a home occupation permit.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (NH DHHS may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness. No routine pre-operational inspection required for exempt operations below the sales threshold.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Production must occur in the operator's primary residence home kitchen or a designated food production area within the primary residence. Area must have handwashing station with hot/cold running potable water, soap, and sanitary drying; equipment/food storage preventing contamination; cleanable food contact surfaces; general sanitation; and pet exclusion during production. Commercial kitchen equipment is permitted if cleanable. Potentially hazardous foods are not allowed under the homestead food exemption.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets must be excluded from the food production area during all food production activities.

WATER SUPPLY

Hot and cold running potable water required at the handwashing station in the production area. Private well users should ensure water is potable.

HANDWASHING

Dedicated handwashing area with hot and cold running potable water, soap, and sanitary hand drying provisions required within the production area.

FOOD STORAGE

Food, equipment, and utensils must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — NH DHHS may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness. No routine pre-operational inspection required for exempt operations below the sales threshold.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Grafton County is an unorganized/rural county in NH; individual towns govern zoning. Each town in Grafton County sets its own home occupation rules. Producers should check with their town's zoning office. Many NH towns permit low-traffic home-based food businesses without a special permit but some require a home occupation permit.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Homestead food products may be sold from the homestead residence, at the owner's farm stand, at farmers markets, and at retail food stores without a license if below the sales threshold. Above threshold a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) is required. Online and mail-order sales require the license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; typical home occupation rules in NH towns restrict non-resident employees to 1-2.

Relevant county code

No county-level cottage food ordinance identified. State law RSA §143-A:12 governs. Individual town zoning codes apply.

RESEARCH NOTES

New Hampshire uses the term 'Homestead Food License' rather than cottage food. RSA §143-A:12 provides a two-tier framework: exempt operations (no license needed) sell locally below the sales cap; non-exempt operations above the cap or selling to restaurants/internet/mail/wholesale need a Class H license at \$150. The exact sales cap amount is set in RSA 143-A:5(VII) and was not confirmed from available sources. Grafton County has no county-level health department with cottage food oversight; individual towns handle zoning. No county-specific cottage food overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law is clear from official source but county/town-level rules are unverified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://co.grafton.nh.us>

<https://gc.nh.gov/ras/html/X/143-A/143-A-12.htm>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Grafton County	Belknap County	Merrimack County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets must be excluded from the food production area during all food production activities.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific state restriction on pets in home for homestead food operations.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Homestead food products may be sold from the homestead residence, at the owner's farm stand, at farmers markets, and at retail food stores ...	Below sales threshold: sales from homestead, farm stand, farmers markets, retail food stores permitted without license. Above threshold: Cl...	Exempt operations: sales at homestead residence, farm stand, farmers markets, and retail food stores without license below the threshold. L...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Production must occur in the operator's primary residence home kitchen or a designated food production area within the primary residence. A...	Non-PHF homestead food products from operator's primary home kitchen may be sold without a license below the annual sales threshold. Above ...	New Hampshire Homestead Food Licensing: operators may sell non-PHF homestead food products from their primary home kitchen without a licens...
FOOD STORAGE	Food, equipment, and utensils must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; processed acidified/low-acid canned foods prohibited	Non-PHF, non-TCS foods only. Products must not require temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	90,836	63,914	153,918

State context — New Hampshire cottage food law

Grafton 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 Grafton 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/grafon-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 Grafton 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/grafton-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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