

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hillsborough County

New Hampshire · Manchester · FIPS 33011 · Population
422,733 · Crosodo Index #2806*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific restriction in state homestead food law beyond standard food safety practices.

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: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2806* · FIPS 33011 · Manchester

Hillsborough County

Population 422,733 · State baseline: RSA §143-A:12 · MEDIUM

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

Conditional (New Hampshire 'Homestead Food' law (RSA §143-A:12) allows non-PHF foods produced in the operator's primary home kitchen. Below the annual sales threshold: no license required; may sell from homestead residence, at owner's farm stand, at farmers markets, and at retail food stores. Above the sales threshold or for sales to restaurants, via internet/mail order, or to wholesalers: a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) required. Potentially hazardous foods (TCS) not permitted. New Hampshire counties do not administer food permits; municipalities govern zoning.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction in state homestead food law beyond standard food safety practices.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (New Hampshire municipalities (Manchester, Nashua, Concord area towns, etc.) within Hillsborough County have their own zoning bylaws for home occupations. County does not administer zoning. Operators should verify with local town/city zoning office whether home occupation permit is required. NH homestead food law does not preempt local zoning requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspection may occur upon complaint. Below-threshold operations have no routine inspection; Class H licensed operations subject to state oversight.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — New Hampshire 'Homestead Food' law (RSA §143-A:12) allows non-PHF foods produced in the operator's primary home kitchen. Below the annual sales threshold: no license required; may sell from homestead residence, at owner's farm stand, at farmers markets, and at retail food stores. Above the sales threshold or for sales to restaurants, via internet/mail order, or to wholesalers: a Class H Homestead License (\$150 fee) required. Potentially hazardous foods (TCS) not permitted. New Hampshire counties do not administer food permits; municipalities govern zoning.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction in state homestead food law beyond standard food safety practices.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for homestead food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspection may occur upon complaint. Below-threshold operations have no routine inspection; Class H licensed operations subject to state oversight.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — New Hampshire municipalities (Manchester, Nashua, Concord area towns, etc.) within Hillsborough County have their own zoning bylaws for home occupations. County does not administer zoning. Operators should verify with local town/city zoning office whether home occupation permit is required. NH homestead food law does not preempt local zoning requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Below threshold: sell from home, farm stand, farmers markets, retail stores. Above threshold or for internet/mail/restaurant/wholesale: Class H Homestead License required. State font requirements: 10-point minimum on labels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local zoning rules vary.

Relevant county code

RSA §143-A:12 (NH Homestead Food License); local Hillsborough County municipal zoning bylaws vary.

RESEARCH NOTES

NH homestead food law (RSA §143-A:12) confirmed via state DHHS. Two-tier system: below sales threshold (amount not confirmed in research) no license; above threshold Class H license at \$150. Hillsborough County includes Manchester, Nashua, and many towns; each has own zoning. NH county government has no role in food or zoning permitting. Label must use 10-point minimum font. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; exact sales threshold amount not verified; county-specific municipal rules not researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://hillsboroughcountynh.gov>

<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/hillsborough-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hillsborough County	Rockingham County	Merrimack County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restriction in state homestead food law beyond standard food safety practices.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation 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	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Below threshold: sell from home, farm stand, farmers markets, retail stores. Above threshold or for internet/mail/restaurant/wholesale: Cla...	Direct from homestead, at owner's stand, or at farmers markets; limited indirect sales permitted under higher tiers	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	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...	Non-TCS homestead food products from primary home kitchen; tiered annual sales cap with registration thresholds; labeling required; complai...	New Hampshire Homestead Food Licensing: operators may sell non-PHF homestead food products from their primary home kitchen without a licens...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Non-PHF, non-TCS foods only. Products must not require temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	422,733	315,169	153,918

State context — New Hampshire cottage food law

Hillsborough 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 Hillsborough 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/hillsborough-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 Hillsborough 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/hillsborough-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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