

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sussex County

New Jersey · Newton · FIPS 34037 · Population 144,808 ·
Crosodo Index #2825*

STATE BASELINE

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.

STATE TIER

Poor

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

Sussex County, New Jersey — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[New Jersey label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

NEW JERSEY: SUSSEX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2825* · FIPS 34037 · Newton

Sussex County

Population 144,808 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certification (CFPM-level); (3) proof of water potability; (4) \$100 permit fee valid for 2 years. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. Annual sales cap \$50,000. Allowed: non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, dried goods, jams/jellies, nut butters, granola, honey, nuts, vinegar, mustard, and other non-TCS foods upon written application. NJ residents only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (New Jersey requires local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted as part of the cottage food permit application. Sussex County municipalities must provide this approval.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Home kitchens not routinely inspected; health authority may enter if there is a complaint or suspected foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certification (CFPM-level); (3) proof of water potability; (4) \$100 permit fee valid for 2 years. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. Annual sales cap \$50,000. Allowed: non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, dried goods, jams/jellies, nut butters, granola, honey, nuts, vinegar, mustard, and other non-TCS foods upon written application. NJ residents only.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.

WATER SUPPLY

Proof of water potability required: well water test or utility bill. Private well water testing required.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing required per NJ cottage food permit standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only. No wholesale sales. Annual gross sales may not exceed \$50,000.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Home kitchens not routinely inspected; health authority may enter if there is a complaint or suspected foodborne illness.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — New Jersey requires local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted as part of the cottage food permit application. Sussex County municipalities must provide this approval.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. No out-of-state sales. NJ residents only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employees may assist with cottage food production.

Relevant county code

Sussex County municipal zoning ordinances; N.J.A.C. 8:24-11

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. New Jersey cottage food restrictions are among the most onerous nationally. No Sussex County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sussexcounty.gov>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/cottage-food-operator/>

https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/njac8_24.pdf

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sussex County	Warren County	Morris County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production per standard NJ food safety requirements.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. No out-of-state sales. NJ residents only.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. Online orders and in-state delivery permitted. On-site pickup subject t...	Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Approved foods list only. Online sales and delivery within NJ. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted; (2) ...	New Jersey requires a Cottage Food Operator Permit from the NJ Department of Health. Only non-TCS foods are permitted. Annual gross sales c...	Must produce only non-TCS foods on state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager cert...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. No wholesale sales. Annual gross sales may not exceed \$50,000.	All ingredients and finished products must be stored properly to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage
POPULATION	144,808	109,739	508,816

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

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

STATUTE

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

50000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Cottage food products may only be delivered or relinquished at: the operator's home (not for onsite consumption), the consumer's NJ home, a NJ farmers market or other permitted NJ location. Products cannot be sold to wholesale establishments, retail food establishments, or shipped out of state. Online and phone order-taking is allowed as an ancillary activity, but physical delivery must occur in New Jersey person-to-person or at permitted locations. Charitable bake sales remain exempt under separate provisions.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/njac8_24.pdf

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/cottage-food-operator/>

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

Questions about Sussex 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-jersey/sussex-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 Sussex County, New Jersey. 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-jersey/sussex-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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