

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lea County

New Mexico · Lovington · FIPS 35025 · Population 73,103 ·
Crosodo Index #506*

STATE BASELINE

NMSA §25-12-3 (Homemade Food Act)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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

Lea County, New Mexico — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not specified in state statute.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[New Mexico label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

NEW MEXICO: LEA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #506* · FIPS 35025 · Lovington

Lea County

Population 73,103 · State baseline: NMSA §25-12-3 (Homemade Food Act) · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods produced in a private farm, ranch, or residence. No sales cap. Direct sales within New Mexico through any channel. Cannot sell to restaurants, wholesalers, distributors, or across state lines.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State Homemade Food Act does not require a permit. Voluntary NMED permit available. Lea County may have local zoning requirements. County government URL confirmed in input. No Lea County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. NMED must issue written warning before fines (\$100 max).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods produced in a private farm, ranch, or residence. No sales cap. Direct sales within New Mexico through any channel. Cannot sell to restaurants, wholesalers, distributors, or across state lines.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. NMED must issue written warning before fines (\$100 max).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State Homemade Food Act does not require a permit. Voluntary NMED permit available. Lea County may have local zoning requirements. County government URL confirmed in input. No Lea County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All channels permitted within New Mexico: farmers markets, festivals, internet, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, mail. No interstate sales. No sales to restaurants, wholesalers, distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

NMSA §25-12-3. No Lea County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Lea County follows New Mexico Homemade Food Act (NMSA §25-12-3). No county-specific overrides found. County government URL confirmed in input. Confidence: medium (state law verified, county URL confirmed, no specific county ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.leacounty.gov>

<https://www.env.nm.gov/food-program/homemade-food/>

<https://www.leacounty.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lea County	Chaves County	Eddy County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific pet restriction in state law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	All channels permitted within New Mexico: farmers markets, festivals, internet, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, mail. No interstate ...	Direct sales to consumers via any channel within NM: farmers markets, festivals, internet, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, mail deli...	Direct-to-consumer within NM via any channel — farmers markets, festivals, internet, roadside stands, home pickup/delivery, and mail delive...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods produced in a private farm, ranch, or residence. No sales cap. Direct sales within New Mexico through any channel. Cannot sel...	Non-TCS homemade foods may be sold directly to consumers within New Mexico through any channel with no sales cap. Food handler certificatio...	New Mexico Homemade Food Act (eff. July 1, 2021) allows all non-TCS foods from private farm, ranch, or residence. No sales cap. No registra...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products must be stored appropriately.	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage required	Non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately; no specific state mandate beyond general food safety.
POPULATION	73,103	64,701	61,264

State context — New Mexico cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
NMSA §25-12-3 (Homemade Food Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Sales must be direct to consumers within New Mexico. Products may not be sold to restaurants, wholesalers, distributors, or outside New Mexico. Internet, mail, and phone sales directly to consumers are permitted. The NMED Food Safety Program does not have jurisdiction in Bernalillo County and Albuquerque (which have their own programs); those areas may operate mandatory or voluntary permit systems.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [New Mexico cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/new-mexico.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://laws.nmonesource.com/w/nmos/Chapter-25-NMSA-1978>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.env.nm.gov/foodprogram/homemade-food-act/>

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

Questions about Lea 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-mexico/lea-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 Lea County, New Mexico. 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-mexico/lea-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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