

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Niagara County

New York · Lockport · FIPS 36063 · Population 212,230 ·
Crosodo Index #796*

STATE BASELINE

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4

STATE TIER

Good

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

Niagara County, New York — 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

No explicit pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor Exemption. Standard GMP food safety practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[New York label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

NEW YORK: NIAGARA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #796* · FIPS 36063 · Lockport

Niagara County

Population 212,230 · State baseline: N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (New York Home Processor Exemption allows non-PHF, shelf-stable baked goods and certain jams, jellies, preserves, and snack mixes. All products must be baked (pathogen kill step required). Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, via home delivery, and online within New York State only. Registration with NY Ag & Markets required (free, location-specific, does not expire). No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor Exemption. Standard GMP food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Niagara County and municipalities (Lockport, Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda, etc.) may require home occupation permits for business operations from a residence. Contact Niagara County Planning Department or relevant municipal zoning office. New York does not have a statewide preemption of local home occupation requirements for cottage food.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection for NY Home Processor Exemption. NY Ag & Markets may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — New York Home Processor Exemption allows non-PHF, shelf-stable baked goods and certain jams, jellies, preserves, and snack mixes. All products must be baked (pathogen kill step required). Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, via home delivery, and online within New York State only. Registration with NY Ag & Markets required (free, location-specific, does not expire). No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor Exemption. Standard GMP food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement for NY Home Processor Exemption.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing and GMP practices required. No specific statutory requirement beyond general food safety.
FOOD STORAGE	Pre-packaged in the home; all products must be shelf-stable and labeled. Non-potentially hazardous products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection for NY Home Processor Exemption. NY Ag & Markets may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Niagara County and municipalities (Lockport, Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda, etc.) may require home occupation permits for business operations from a residence. Contact Niagara County Planning Department or relevant municipal zoning office. New York does not have a statewide preemption of local home occupation requirements for cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	NY Home Processor Exemption allows direct sales from home, online (within New York only), farmers markets, farm stands, craft fairs, and delivery within New York. Wholesale sales also permitted under NY framework (unusual nationally). No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in NY Home Processor Exemption. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; Niagara County zoning ordinances (contact Planning for home occupation details)

RESEARCH NOTES

New York state baseline applies. Niagara County (county seat: Lockport) is in western New York near Niagara Falls. NY Home Processor Exemption is a state-level program administered by NY Ag & Markets (not local health departments). Registration is free and location-specific. No sales cap. New York's exemption allows wholesale, which is unusual nationally. Products must have a pathogen kill step (baking), which excludes no-bake items.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.niagaracounty.gov/health>

<https://www.niagaracounty.gov>

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/12/HomeProcessor.pdf>

<https://www.niagaracounty.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Niagara County	Erie County	Genesee County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor Exemption. Standard GMP food safety practices apply.	Not specified in state rules	No specific pet restriction in NY Home Processor rules.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	NY Home Processor Exemption allows direct sales from home, online (within New York only), farmers markets, farm stands, craft fairs, and de...	Sales allowed at farm venues, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, via home delivery, and online — all within New Yor...	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and online within NY State. Wholesal...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	New York Home Processor Exemption allows non-PHF, shelf-stable baked goods and certain jams, jellies, preserves, and snack mixes. All produ...	Home Processor Exemption is location-specific. Must use home kitchen only; products must be packaged in the home before sale. Registration ...	NY Home Processor Exemption requires free registration with NY Ag & Markets. All products must be baked (pathogen kill step required). Shel...
FOOD STORAGE	Pre-packaged in the home; all products must be shelf-stable and labeled. Non-potentially hazardous products only.	Products must be packaged in the home kitchen before sale; no in-person packaging at events	Products must be shelf-stable, non-refrigerated, pre-packaged in the home.
POPULATION	212,230	951,232	58,204

State context — New York cottage food law

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

STATUTE

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — Wholesale to restaurants, cafes, and grocery stores within New York State is explicitly permitted. Products may also be sold online (NY residents only) and via delivery. Shipping out of state is not permitted. Registration is free, location-specific, and has no expiration date.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/251-Z-4>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

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

Questions about Niagara 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-york/niagara-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 Niagara County, New York. 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-york/niagara-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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