

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Allen County

Ohio · Lima · FIPS 39003 · Population 102,087 · Crosodo
Index #726*

STATE BASELINE

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20

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

Allen County, Ohio — 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 specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Ohio label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

OHIO: ALLEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #726* · FIPS 39003 · Lima

Allen County

Population 102,087 · State baseline: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20 ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Ohio cottage food operations limited to approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-PHF bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee beans, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, and spice mixes with commercially dried ingredients. No registration or inspection required. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lima and other municipalities in Allen County may have home occupation zoning requirements. Allen County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input. No specific Allen County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. Exempt from ODA licensing.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Ohio cottage food operations limited to approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-PHF bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee beans, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, and spice mixes with commercially dried ingredients. No registration or inspection required. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Only approved product list items. No acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, or PHF. No fresh-fruit-dipped candies. No reduced oxygen packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections. Exempt from ODA licensing.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lima and other municipalities in Allen County may have home occupation zoning requirements. Allen County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input. No specific Allen County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at home, farmers markets, events. Indirect sales to retailers also permitted. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Allen County code section identified. State law governs: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20.

RESEARCH NOTES

Allen County was flagged as 'verified-large' but has no county URLs. State baseline governs. Lima is a mid-sized northwestern Ohio city. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.allen.oh.us>

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Allen County	Hancock County	Auglaize County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales permitted at home, farmers markets, events. Indirect sales to retailers also permitted. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio.	Direct and indirect sales permitted within Ohio only.	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-sta...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Ohio cottage food operations limited to approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-PHF bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), f...	Approved product list only (OAC 901:3-20-04). No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.	Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration...
FOOD STORAGE	Only approved product list items. No acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, or PHF. No fresh-fruit-dipped candies. No reduced oxygen packa...	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored appropriately. No reduced oxygen packaging.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.
POPULATION	102,087	75,072	46,263

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Labeled cottage food products may be sold to or used by retail food establishments and food service operations licensed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3717. This enables indirect/wholesale sales within Ohio. Products may not be sold outside the state of Ohio.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/ohio/>

Questions about Allen 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/ohio/allen-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 Allen County, Ohio. 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/ohio/allen-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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