

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Athens County

Ohio · Athens · FIPS 39009 · Population 61,276 · Crosodo
Index #1899*

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

Athens County, Ohio — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; standard hygiene practices recommended.

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: ATHENS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1899* · FIPS 39009 · Athens

Athens County

Population 61,276 · 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 are allowed from home kitchens with no registration or inspection required. Approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) limits allowed items. No sales cap. No out-of-state sales.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; standard hygiene practices recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Athens County and the City of Athens may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should verify with Athens County or their local zoning authority.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine or complaint-triggered inspection authority specified for cottage food in ORC; ODA food safety division handles complaints generally.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Ohio cottage food operations are allowed from home kitchens with no registration or inspection required. Approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) limits allowed items. No sales cap. No out-of-state sales.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; standard hygiene practices recommended.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.

HANDWASHING

No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general GMP.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be non-potentially hazardous and shelf-stable; no reduced oxygen packaging permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine or complaint-triggered inspection authority specified for cottage food in ORC; ODA food safety division handles complaints generally.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Athens County and the City of Athens may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should verify with Athens County or their local zoning authority.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Ohio allows direct and indirect sales of cottage food products within Ohio only. Sales at farmers markets, retail stores, online (in-state), and home pickup all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Athens County zoning code (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Athens County. State baseline applies. Ohio has a specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) that limits eligible items — not all non-TCS foods qualify; producers must verify their product appears on the approved list. No sales cap, no registration required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.athenscounty.gov>

<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/athens-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Athens County	Washington County	Hocking County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; standard hygiene practices recommended.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Ohio allows direct and indirect sales of cottage food products within Ohio only. Sales at farmers markets, retail stores, online (in-state)...	Ohio allows direct and indirect sales within Ohio only. Farmers markets, retail stores, online (in-state), home pickup all permitted.	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-sta...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Ohio cottage food operations are allowed from home kitchens with no registration or inspection required. Approved product list (OAC 901:3-2...	Ohio cottage food operations allowed from home kitchens with no registration or inspection required. Specific approved product list (OAC 90...	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	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and shelf-stable; no reduced oxygen packaging permitted.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable products required. No reduced oxygen packaging.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.
POPULATION	61,276	59,639	28,104

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Athens 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 Athens 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/athens-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 Athens 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/athens-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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