

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Geauga County

Ohio · Chardon · FIPS 39055 · Population 95,455 · Crosodo
Index #1654*

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

Geauga 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?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law.

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: GEAUGA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1654* · FIPS 39055 · Chardon

Geauga County

Population 95,455 · 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 law: no registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler certification required. Only Ohio-approved product list items may be sold. Ohio Amish community presence in Geauga County may mean significant cottage food activity; state law applies uniformly. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Gauga County townships and municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No Geauga County-specific cottage food permit identified. Geauga County has a significant Amish and small-farm community, which may affect local interpretation of home-based business rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection authority for Ohio cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Ohio cottage food law: no registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler certification required. Only Ohio-approved product list items may be sold. Ohio Amish community presence in Geauga County may mean significant cottage food activity; state law applies uniformly. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF approved products only; no reduced oxygen packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection authority for Ohio cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Geauga County townships and municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No Geauga County-specific cottage food permit identified. Geauga County has a significant Amish and small-farm community, which may affect local interpretation of home-based business rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed within Ohio. No out-of-state sales. Farmers markets, events, home pickup, online sales all permitted within Ohio.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in Ohio cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Geauga County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Geauga County-specific cottage food rules found. Geauga County is notable for its large Amish and Mennonite population, which historically has significant cottage food activity (baked goods, produce stands). Ohio's approved product list approach means only specifically listed products may be sold — this is more restrictive than general non-TCS standards in other states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.geaugacounty.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/geauga-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Geauga County	Ashtabula County	Portage County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law.	No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law.	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed within Ohio. No out-of-state sales. Farmers markets, events, home pickup, online sales all permitted with...	Direct and indirect sales allowed within Ohio (no out-of-state sales). Farmers markets, events, home pickup, online sales all permitted wit...	Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (within Ohio only — products cannot be sold outside Ohio). Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, fai...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Ohio cottage food law: no registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler certification required. Only Ohio-approved product lis...	Ohio cottage food law allows production with no registration, no inspection, no sales cap, and no food handler certification required. Only...	Ohio allows cottage food from home kitchens with no registration or sales cap. Products must be on the approved list (OAC 901:3-20-04): non...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF approved products only; no reduced oxygen packaging.	Non-PHF approved products only; no reduced oxygen packaging; store to prevent contamination.	Approved products only; non-PHF; proper storage to prevent contamination.
POPULATION	95,455	97,666	161,217

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Geauga 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 Geauga 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/geauga-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 Geauga 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/geauga-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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