

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lorain County

Ohio · Elyria · FIPS 39093 · Population 313,101 · Crosodo Index #1357*

STATE BASELINE

Ohio OAC §901:3-20 (Cottage Food Law); no license required; annual sales cap \$35,000 direct sales; home kitchen allowed; no inspection

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	MEDIUM	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

Lorain 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 state restriction; general 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: LORAIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1357* · FIPS 39093 · Elyria

Lorain County

Population 313,101 · State baseline: Ohio OAC §901:3-20 (Cottage Food Law); no license required; annual sales cap \$35,000 direct sales; home kitchen allowed; no inspection · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; \$35,000 annual direct sales cap; no state license or inspection required; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Lorain County municipalities (Elyria, Lorain city) may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with local planning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Complaint-based investigation possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; \$35,000 annual direct sales cap; no state license or inspection required; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Lorain County municipalities (Elyria, Lorain city) may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with local planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events; indirect sales to retailers permitted under separate \$300,000 annual cap with additional requirements
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio has two tiers: \$35,000 direct sales cap and higher cap for indirect sales with registration. No Lorain County-specific overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.loraincounty.us>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lorain County	Medina County	Cuyahoga County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events; indirect sales to retailers permitted under separate \$300,000 annual cap with addition...	Direct sales only within Ohio. In-state delivery and farmers market sales permitted. No out-of-state sales.	Cottage food products may only be sold in Ohio. Direct sales, grocery stores, farm markets, and restaurants allowed. No out-of-state sales.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only; \$35,000 annual direct sales cap; no state license or inspection required; labeling required	No registration required. No sales cap. Approved product list required (specific products per Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20-04). No potentially...	Ohio Cottage Food Production Operations exempt from ODA licensing. Home must be primary residence with only one residential stove/oven. Cuy...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Shelf-stable storage for approved cottage food products.	State baseline applies
POPULATION	313,101	182,347	1,256,620

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Lorain 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 Lorain 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/lorain-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 Lorain 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/lorain-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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