

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mahoning County

Ohio · Youngstown · FIPS 39099 · Population 227,979 ·
Crosodo Index #803*

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

Mahoning 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

Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food operations, but GMP practices discourage pet presence in food prep areas.

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: MAHONING COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #803* · FIPS 39099 · Youngstown

Mahoning County

Population 227,979 · 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 state law permits cottage food production from a home kitchen for non-potentially hazardous foods on the approved product list. No separate commercial kitchen required. Unincorporated Mahoning County zoning governs home-based business use; municipalities within the county (Youngstown, Boardman, etc.) have their own zoning. Ohio preempts local health department regulation of cottage food operations.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food operations, but GMP practices discourage pet presence in food prep areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Mahoning County unincorporated areas: zoning regulations enforced by local townships; many Ohio townships require a home occupation permit for any business operating from a residence. Individual municipal zoning (Youngstown, Austintown, etc.) varies. Recommend verifying with Mahoning County Planning Commission and relevant township/city zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection under Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.025). ODA may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Ohio state law permits cottage food production from a home kitchen for non-potentially hazardous foods on the approved product list. No separate commercial kitchen required. Unincorporated Mahoning County zoning governs home-based business use; municipalities within the county (Youngstown, Boardman, etc.) have their own zoning. Ohio preempts local health department regulation of cottage food operations.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food operations, but GMP practices discourage pet presence in food prep areas.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific county water testing requirement for cottage food operations under Ohio state law.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing facilities required per state GMP guidelines.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination; standard GMP storage practices apply.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection under Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.025). ODA may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Mahoning County unincorporated areas: zoning regulations enforced by local townships; many Ohio townships require a home occupation permit for any business operating from a residence. Individual municipal zoning (Youngstown, Austintown, etc.) varies. Recommend verifying with Mahoning County Planning Commission and relevant township/city zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Ohio state law permits direct sales from home, at events, farmers markets, and online. Delivery to customers is allowed. No county-specific restrictions documented beyond state baseline.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state limit for cottage food operations; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Mahoning County zoning enforced at township level; see individual township zoning ordinances. County Building Regulations reference state ORC and local zoning.

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio state baseline applies; no county-level cottage food overrides found. Mahoning County enforces zoning through townships (Boardman, Austintown, Canfield, etc.) and municipalities (Youngstown). Ohio cottage food law (ORC §3715.025) allows no-registration home sales of approved non-PHF foods up to \$75,000/year (per Massillon/Ohio reference found; confirm current cap). Home occupation permitting is administered at the local township/municipal level. No Mahoning County-specific health department cottage food page found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov>

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

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

<https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/621/Licensing-Permits>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Mahoning County	Trumbull County	Portage County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food operations, but GMP practices discourage pet presence in food prep area...	Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food; GMP practices apply.	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	Ohio state law permits direct sales from home, at events, farmers markets, and online. Delivery to customers is allowed. No county-specific...	Ohio cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales from home, events, farmers markets, and online. Products must stay within Ohio.	Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (within Ohio only — products cannot be sold outside Ohio). Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, fai...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Ohio state law permits cottage food production from a home kitchen for non-potentially hazardous foods on the approved product list. No sep...	Ohio state law permits cottage food production from a home kitchen without registration. Must follow approved product list (Ohio Admin. Cod...	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	Products must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination; standard GMP storage practices apply.	Approved product list compliance required. Standard GMP storage.	Approved products only; non-PHF; proper storage to prevent contamination.
POPULATION	227,979	201,749	161,217

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Mahoning 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 Mahoning 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/mahoning-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 Mahoning 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/mahoning-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise