

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mercer County

Ohio · Celina · FIPS 39107 · Population 42,648 · Crosodo Index #1914*

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

2026-05-06

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

Mercer 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 Ohio state 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: MERCER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1914* · FIPS 39107 · Celina

Mercer County

Population 42,648 · 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 allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration. Products must be labeled per O.R.C. §3715.023. Sales within Ohio only. Direct and indirect (retail) sales both permitted. Mercer County zoning may apply to home-based businesses in unincorporated areas.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level permit required. Mercer County zoning resolutions may require a home occupation permit for unincorporated areas. Contact Mercer County Regional Planning Commission in Celina for local requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (ODA has sampling authority; no routine inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration. Products must be labeled per O.R.C. §3715.023. Sales within Ohio only. Direct and indirect (retail) sales both permitted. Mercer County zoning may apply to home-based businesses in unincorporated areas.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement in Ohio cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory handwashing mandate beyond good manufacturing practices.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — ODA has sampling authority; no routine inspection required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No state-level permit required. Mercer County zoning resolutions may require a home occupation permit for unincorporated areas. Contact Mercer County Regional Planning Commission in Celina for local requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State law (O.R.C. §3715.025 and OAC Ch. 901:3-20) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Mercer County is a rural county in northwest Ohio near the Indiana border. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance found. Defaulted to Ohio state baseline at medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mercercounty.gov>

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

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

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-901:3-20>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Mercer County	Auglaize County	Shelby County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in Ohio 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	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-sta...	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-sta...	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 law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration...	Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration...	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	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.
POPULATION	42,321	46,263	48,145

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Mercer 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 Mercer 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/mercercounty-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 Mercer 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/mercercounty-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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