

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Berks County

Pennsylvania · Reading · FIPS 42011 · Population 428,483 ·  
Crosodo Index #2838\*

| STATE BASELINE        | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 | 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

Berks County, Pennsylvania — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Conditional**

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Conditional**

INSPECTION

**Yes**

PETS

**Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Pennsylvania 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
- ☐ Pennsylvania home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Pennsylvania label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

## PENNSYLVANIA: BERKS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2838\* · FIPS 42011 · Reading

## Berks County

Population 428,483 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initial on-site inspection is required before registration is issued. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams and jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with pH testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. Berks County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture statewide jurisdiction.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Berks County municipalities (Reading, Wyomissing, Muhlenberg Township, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. Berks County government does not administer cottage food permits.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initial on-site inspection is required before registration is issued. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams and jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with pH testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. Berks County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture statewide jurisdiction.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.

## WATER SUPPLY

No specific water supply requirement beyond standard food code compliance.

## HANDWASHING

Required per food establishment inspection standards.

## FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Berks County municipalities (Reading, Wyomissing, Muhlenberg Township, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. Berks County government does not administer cottage food permits.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional                                                                                                       |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                       |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer sales and some limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules typically restrict to family members.              |

**Relevant county code**

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 (Limited Food Establishment); local Berks County municipal zoning codes vary.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pennsylvania LFE program well-documented via state .gov source. Berks County has no county health department; PA Dept. of Agriculture has statewide jurisdiction. Initial inspection required is a key restriction. Individual municipalities in Berks County (Reading, townships) have their own zoning codes for home occupation compliance. Confidence medium: state rules high-confidence; county-specific zoning not researched at municipal level.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.co.berks.pa.us>

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/berks-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/berks-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Berks County                                                                                                                                    | Lehigh County                                                                                                                                   | Chester County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.                                                                                  | Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.                                                                                  | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection                                              |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer sales and some limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.                               | Direct-to-consumer sales and limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.                                    | All venues permitted: direct from home, online, retail stores, restaurants, interstate. Retail Food Facility License may be required for fa... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi... | Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi... | Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only.                                                                                               | Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only.                                                                                               | Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions                                                                                       |
| POPULATION                 | 428,483                                                                                                                                         | 374,110                                                                                                                                         | 536,474                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Berks County's rules sit on top of Pennsylvania's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

---

**STATUTE**

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737

**ANNUAL SALES CAP**

—

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Yes

**FOOD HANDLER CERT**

No

**KITCHEN INSPECTION**

Yes

**DIRECT SALES ONLY**

No

**INDIRECT SALES**

Limited (see notes) — Registration includes sales direct from the production site including internet sales. However, a separate Retail Food Facility License may be required for sales at events or Farmers Markets. Businesses aiming to sell across state lines might also need FDA registration. The registration covers home-based operations in residential kitchens as well as residential-style kitchens in alternate locations such as churches, fire halls, or remodeled garages. Not available in Philadelphia County.

---

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Pennsylvania cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania](https://crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania).

---

**STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES**

State statute: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=03&div=0&chpt=57>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/pennsylvania/>

---

**Questions about Berks 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/pennsylvania/berks-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/berks-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/pennsylvania/berks-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/berks-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](https://crosodo.com/advertise)