

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Forest County

Pennsylvania · Tionesta · FIPS 42053 · Population 7,294 ·
Crosodo Index #1734*

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

Forest County, Pennsylvania — 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

Yes

PETS

Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection

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: FOREST COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1734* · FIPS 42053 · Tionesta

Forest County

Population 7,294 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (does not apply here). Acidified and fermented foods require recipe submission and laboratory testing approval.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (PA LFE application packet (Section 2) explicitly requires producers to first contact their local municipality to verify zoning allows a food business at the proposed location. Forest County is one of the least populated Pennsylvania counties and has no county-wide zoning. Tionesta Borough and rural townships have their own ordinances. Very limited municipal planning activity given low population.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued; subsequent routine inspections apply; assigned to PA Region 1 (Meadville office))

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (does not apply here). Acidified and fermented foods require recipe submission and laboratory testing approval.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well requires testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety standards
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued; subsequent routine inspections apply; assigned to PA Region 1 (Meadville office)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — PA LFE application packet (Section 2) explicitly requires producers to first contact their local municipality to verify zoning allows a food business at the proposed location. Forest County is one of the least populated Pennsylvania counties and has no county-wide zoning. Tionesta Borough and rural townships have their own ordinances. Very limited municipal planning activity given low population.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility License for farmers market sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; PA LFE application packet (Rev 3/2024)

RESEARCH NOTES

Forest County is among the least populated counties in Pennsylvania with approximately 7,294 residents. PA Limited Food Establishment program under 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 is the operative framework. Forest County falls within PA Region 1 (Meadville office: 13410 Dunham Rd., Meadville PA 16335, 814-332-6890). No county-wide zoning; municipalities govern. Very rural forested county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.forestcountypa.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Forest County	Clarion County	Elk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility Lice...	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility Lice...	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility Lice...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit applic...	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit applic...	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit applic...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product
POPULATION	7,294	38,438	30,608

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Forest 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	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.

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 Forest 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/forest-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 Forest County, Pennsylvania. 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/pennsylvania/forest-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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