

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lackawanna County

Pennsylvania · Scranton · FIPS 42069 · Population 215,672 ·
Crosodo Index #1818*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

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

Lackawanna 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

PA Department of Agriculture home kitchen inspection verifies compliance with food safety standards; pet presence in food preparation areas is typically addressed during inspection as a GMP issue.

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: LACKAWANNA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1818* · FIPS 42069 · Scranton

Lackawanna County

Population 215,672 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) law requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection before operation. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods are permitted. Application must be submitted at least 60 days prior to operating. Program not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here). Lackawanna County (Scranton area) is served by the PA Department of Agriculture program.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

PA Department of Agriculture home kitchen inspection verifies compliance with food safety standards; pet presence in food preparation areas is typically addressed during inspection as a GMP issue.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lackawanna County and City of Scranton zoning may require a home occupation permit for food business operations from a residence. Contact Lackawanna County Planning Commission or Scranton City Planning for home occupation permit requirements. Applicants must also confirm zoning allows a food business at the residential address as part of the PA LFE application process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) law requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection before operation. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods are permitted. Application must be submitted at least 60 days prior to operating. Program not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here). Lackawanna County (Scranton area) is served by the PA Department of Agriculture program.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	PA Department of Agriculture home kitchen inspection verifies compliance with food safety standards; pet presence in food preparation areas is typically addressed during inspection as a GMP issue.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement stated in the PA Limited Food Establishment program materials reviewed, though the inspector may evaluate water supply during the initial inspection.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial on-site inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lackawanna County and City of Scranton zoning may require a home occupation permit for food business operations from a residence. Contact Lackawanna County Planning Commission or Scranton City Planning for home occupation permit requirements. Applicants must also confirm zoning allows a food business at the residential address as part of the PA LFE application process.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Pennsylvania LFE program permits sales directly to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup, delivery, and farmers market sales permitted. Contact PA Department of Agriculture for specific product category restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in PA Limited Food Establishment statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment); Lackawanna County zoning ordinances (contact Planning Commission)

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania state baseline applies. Lackawanna County (county seat: Scranton) is in northeastern Pennsylvania. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. PA Limited Food Establishment program is administered at the state level by PA Department of Agriculture with local inspectors. The \$35 fee is for a 2-year registration (confirmed from input notes). Application at least 60 days before operating is required. Not available in Philadelphia County.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lackawannacounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lackawanna County	Monroe County	Luzerne County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	PA Department of Agriculture home kitchen inspection verifies compliance with food safety standards; pet presence in food preparation areas...	Home kitchen inspected; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.	Pets excluded from food production areas during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Pennsylvania LFE program permits sales directly to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup...	Direct sales from production site and internet sales included in registration. Farmers market sales may require separate Retail Food Facili...	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) law requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection bef...	Registration required with PA Department of Agriculture (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registrat...	PA Limited Food Establishment registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices required.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	215,672	168,128	325,396

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Lackawanna 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

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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.

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 Lackawanna 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/lackawanna-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 Lackawanna 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/lackawanna-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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