

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lancaster County

Pennsylvania · Lancaster · FIPS 42071 · Population 553,202 ·
Crosodo Index #2493*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per 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: LANCASTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2493* · FIPS 42071 · Lancaster

Lancaster County

Population 553,202 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration required with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (\$35/yr). Acidified/fermented foods require lab testing and approval. Must first obtain local municipality zoning approval.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Pennsylvania LFE application packet requires local municipality zoning approval as first step. Lancaster County has 60 municipalities (townships, boroughs, and the city of Lancaster). Lancaster County also has a significant Amish/Mennonite farming community with direct farm markets, which may operate under separate rules. Each municipality has independent zoning. Note: Lancaster County is a major food production region; cottage food is common and generally well-accommodated in rural zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration and on ongoing basis annually)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration required with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (\$35/yr). Acidified/fermented foods require lab testing and approval. Must first obtain local municipality zoning approval.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Private well water requires testing; municipal water acceptable
HANDWASHING	Required as part of routine home inspection compliance
FOOD STORAGE	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration and on ongoing basis annually
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Pennsylvania LFE application packet requires local municipality zoning approval as first step. Lancaster County has 60 municipalities (townships, boroughs, and the city of Lancaster). Lancaster County also has a significant Amish/Mennonite farming community with direct farm markets, which may operate under separate rules. Each municipality has independent zoning. Note: Lancaster County is a major food production region; cottage food is common and generally well-accommodated in rural zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All venues permitted: direct from home, online, retail stores, restaurants, interstate. Retail Food Facility License may be required for farmers market and event sales. No annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level; local zoning may restrict

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737. 60 municipalities with independent zoning codes in Lancaster County.

RESEARCH NOTES

Same Pennsylvania LFE state baseline as Bucks and Delaware Counties. Lancaster County is notable for its large rural/agricultural population and active cottage food/direct market culture. 60 municipalities. Local zoning approval prerequisite to PDA application. No annual sales cap; broad food types allowed (including acidified/fermented with lab testing); all sales venues permitted. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; Lancaster County municipality-level zoning not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://co.lancaster.pa.us>

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/pennsylvania/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lancaster County	Chester County	York County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	All venues permitted: direct from home, online, retail stores, restaurants, interstate. Retail Food Facility License may be required for fa...	All venues permitted: direct from home, online, retail stores, restaurants, interstate. Retail Food Facility License may be required for fa...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Cannot sell in Philadelphia County. Online sales and in-state deli...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir...	Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi...
FOOD STORAGE	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.
POPULATION	553,202	536,474	457,051

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Lancaster 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.

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 Lancaster 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/lancaster-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 Lancaster 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/lanaster-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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