

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lehigh County

Pennsylvania · Allentown · FIPS 42077 · Population 374,110 ·
Crosodo Index #2844*

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

Lehigh 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: LEHIGH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2844* · FIPS 42077 · Allentown

Lehigh County

Population 374,110 · 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. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams/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. Lehigh 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 (Lehigh County municipalities (Allentown, Bethlehem, Emmaus, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone.)

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. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams/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. Lehigh 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 & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Lehigh County municipalities (Allentown, Bethlehem, Emmaus, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales and 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 apply.

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania LFE program well-documented from state .gov source. Lehigh County includes Allentown and Bethlehem (Lehigh Valley). PA Dept. of Agriculture has statewide jurisdiction. Initial inspection required. Individual municipalities have their own zoning codes. Confidence medium: state rules high-confidence; county-specific zoning not researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lehighcounty.org>

<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/lehigh-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lehigh County	Berks County	Northampton 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.	Pets excluded from food production areas
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 limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales and some limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
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...	PA LFE registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only.	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	374,110	428,483	314,299

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Lehigh 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 Lehigh 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/lehigh-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 Lehigh 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/lehigh-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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