

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# McKean County

Pennsylvania · Smethport · FIPS 42083 · Population 41,806 ·  
Crosodo Index #2822\*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

McKean 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: MCKEAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2822\* · FIPS 42083 · Smethport

# McKean County

Population 41,806 · 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 requirements), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. McKean County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture jurisdiction.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (McKean County municipalities have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. McKean County does not administer cottage food permits; that is handled by PA Dept. of Agriculture for the registration. Municipal-level home occupation permits may be required by individual townships and boroughs.)

**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 requirements), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. McKean County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture 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. No foods requiring temperature control.

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — McKean County municipalities have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. McKean County does not administer cottage food permits; that is handled by PA Dept. of Agriculture for the registration. Municipal-level home occupation permits may be required by individual townships and boroughs. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                            |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. 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 provisions). Local zoning varies by municipality.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pennsylvania LFE program is well-documented with state .gov source. Rural north-central PA county. Bradford City is within McKean County. PA Dept of Agriculture governs LFE statewide. No county health dept. State rules high-confidence; county-specific municipal zoning not researched at municipality level. Confidence medium: state rules apply uniformly, municipal home occupation rules vary.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.mckeancountypa.org>

<https://www.mckeancountypa.org>

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

<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/mckean-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/mckean-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | McKean County                                                                                                                                   | Cameron County                                                                                                                                  | Elk County                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.                                                                                  | 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    | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.                          | 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     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| 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... | 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, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.                                                       | 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                 | 41,806                                                                                                                                          | 4,447                                                                                                                                           | 30,608                                                                                                                                          |

## State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

McKean 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 McKean 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/mckean-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/mckean-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 McKean 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/mckean-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/mckean-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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