

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Venango County

Pennsylvania · Franklin · FIPS 42121 · Population 50,475 ·
Crosodo Index #1748*

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

Venango 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 state cottage food law, but GMP requirements apply 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: VENANGO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1748* · FIPS 42121 · Franklin

Venango County

Population 50,475 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

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

Yes (Must apply for Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued. Must submit at least 60 days prior to operating. Non-TCS foods only. Private well or septic users may face additional testing requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Venango County and its townships/municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. City of Franklin has its own zoning code. Recommend verifying with Venango County Planning Commission and relevant municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply as part of LFE program.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must apply for Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued. Must submit at least 60 days prior to operating. Non-TCS foods only. Private well or septic users may face additional testing requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Private well or septic users may face additional testing requirements.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of LFE kitchen inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply as part of LFE program.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Venango County and its townships/municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. City of Franklin has its own zoning code. Recommend verifying with Venango County Planning Commission and relevant municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE. Products may be sold at farmers markets, events, home, and to some retailers.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state LFE rules.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Venango County/municipality zoning codes

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania LFE program requires initial kitchen inspection and \$35 registration fee. Venango County is in northwestern PA. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state LFE requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.venangocounty.gov>

<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/venango-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Venango County	Crawford County	Mercer County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state cottage food law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.	Kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.	Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE. Products may be sold at farmers markets, events, home, and to some retaile...	Pennsylvania LFE allows direct and limited indirect sales within Pennsylvania framework.	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must apply for Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection required be...	Same as all PA counties (except Philadelphia): Limited Food Establishment registration (\$35, 2-year), initial kitchen inspection required, ...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Mercer County is outside Philadelphia Co...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage required.	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.
POPULATION	50,475	83,876	110,600

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Venango 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 Venango 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/venango-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 Venango 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/venango-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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