COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Santa Cruz County

Arizona · Nogales · FIPS 04023 · Population 50,508 · Crosodo Index #3076*

STATE BASELINE

A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932; AZ tier: Great; azdhs.gov cottage food program

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-11-03

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

Santa Cruz County, Arizona — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?	STATE SALES CAP
True	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?	ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
True	True
INSPECTION	PETS
No	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- [ ] **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Arizona 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
- [ ] Arizona home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

Open the live county page →

Arizona label one-pager →

Print labels for your first market →

Local notes & questions →

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ARIZONA: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3076* · FIPS 04023 · Nogales

Santa Cruz County

Population 50,508 · State baseline: A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932; AZ tier: Great; azdhs.gov cottage food program · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?
True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?
False

PETS ALLOWED?
No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?
True (Santa Cruz County requires a Home Occupation Permit (Conditional Use Permit) for home-based businesses operating in unincorporated areas. City of Nogales additionally requires a business license ($35 initial + $35 annual) for businesses operating within city limits. Contact Santa Cruz County Planning Department for zoning compliance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?
No (Complaint-based only per state law)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well operators should test water quality
HANDWASHING	Required per AZ DHS cottage food program guidelines
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food safety storage per AZ DHS cottage food program

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Complaint-based only per state law
LOCAL HEALTH / COUNTY REGISTRATION	No
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	True — Santa Cruz County requires a Home Occupation Permit (Conditional Use Permit) for home-based businesses operating in unincorporated areas. City of Nogales additionally requires a business license ($35 initial + $35 annual) for businesses operating within city limits. Contact Santa Cruz County Planning Department for zoning compliance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	True

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Limited; home occupation rules typically restrict commercial signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales allowed; delivery and pickup permitted per AZ state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at county level; typical home occupation rules restrict non-resident employees

Relevant county code

Santa Cruz County Zoning Ordinance - Home Occupation provisions; A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932 (state cottage food)

RESEARCH NOTES

Arizona state cottage food law (A.R.S. §36-931/§36-932) is permissive and preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations. Santa Cruz County requires a Home Occupation Permit (confirmed via business license registry showing 'Home Occupation Permit' and 'Conditional Use Permit' as county-level license types). City of Nogales (county seat) requires a separate city business license at $35. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. AZ DHS registration required at state level. Some AZ counties require a locally-issued food handler card; Santa Cruz County practice unconfirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/187/Environmental-Health

https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/157/Planning-Zoning

https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov

https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/food-safety-environmental-services/cottage-food-program/index.php

https://www.nogalesaz.gov/188/Business-License-Information

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

Santa Cruz County and nearby places

Regulation	Santa Cruz County	Cochise County	Pima County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	**True**	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	**False**	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	**No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production**	No specific county overlay; state food safety standards apply. Food preparation areas should be clean and free from contamination.	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	**No**	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	**True**	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	**Limited; home occupation rules typically restrict commercial signage**	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	**Direct-to-consumer sales allowed; delivery and pickup permitted per AZ state law**	Customer pickup and delivery/ pickup of supplies allowed 8 AM–7 PM per home occupation standards. No semi-tractor trailers for delivery/pick…	State law allows direct and indirect sales. Local codes may address where food can and cannot be sold. ARS §36-931 provisions do not affect…
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	**True**	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	**True**	Varies	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	**—**	Arizona state law allows cottage food production from a registered home kitchen. Cochise County follows state baseline. Registration with A…	Pima County follows ADHS for cottage food registration. In unincorporated areas, home occupations are allowed as accessory use with a Home …
FOOD STORAGE	**Standard food safety storage per AZ DHS cottage food program**	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per standard food safety practices. Perishable ingredients refrigerated appropriately.	State baseline applies
POPULATION	**47,838**	125,504	1,042,393

State context — Arizona cottage food law

Santa Cruz County's rules sit on top of Arizona's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE
A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION
No

INDIRECT SALES
Yes — Retail and wholesale sales are allowed for non-dairy/non-meat products; stores must display homemade products separately from commercially produced items; dairy and meat products must be sold directly in person (online orders allowed but must be delivered in person, not via third-party platforms).

ANNUAL SALES CAP
—

FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY
No

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Arizona cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/arizona.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.azleg.gov/arsDetail/?title=36

State dept cottage food page: https://azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/food-safety-environmental-services/index.php#cottage-food

Forrager.com: https://forrager.com/law/arizona/

Questions about Santa Cruz 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/arizona/santa-cruz-county-discuss

RESEARCH NOTES

Baker's Notes

Research notes, not a state ruling. Baker talk is what people discuss. Official pages are cited separately. Confirm before you sell.

Sell to stores (next level)

Cottage / home-kitchen exemptions are usually direct-to-consumer and not for resale into stores. Selling into retail stores typically requires a state manufactured-food (or equivalent) permit and an inspected production kitchen, plus local zoning and business licensing.

This county: We have not collected local store-shelf notes for this place yet.

Confirm with the state food agency and local planning / commissioner offices before you sell into stores. Not legal advice.

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 Santa Cruz County, Arizona. 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/arizona/santa-cruz-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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