

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

San Benito County

California · Hollister · FIPS 06069 · Population 64,753 ·
Crosodo Index #674*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

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

San Benito County, California — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[California label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

CALIFORNIA: SAN BENITO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #674* · FIPS 06069 · Hollister

San Benito County

Population 64,753 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited). San Benito County Environmental Health administers local permits. State preempts local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (San Benito County Environmental Health Department handles cottage food registration. State preempts local zoning restrictions. Contact San Benito County Environmental Health at (831) 637-5346.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Class A: no inspection required. Class B: initial home kitchen inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited). San Benito County Environmental Health administers local permits. State preempts local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; county environmental health may require well water testing for private wells
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required; assessed for Class B
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable approved foods only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Class A: no inspection required. Class B: initial home kitchen inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — San Benito County Environmental Health Department handles cottage food registration. State preempts local zoning restrictions. Contact San Benito County Environmental Health at (831) 637-5346.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales including online and shipping within California. Class B: plus retail stores and restaurants within California. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted

Relevant county code

San Benito County Environmental Health administers CFO registration

RESEARCH NOTES

San Benito County is a small agricultural county near Hollister, adjacent to Santa Clara and Monterey counties. California two-tier CFO system applies. One non-family employee limit. No specific San Benito County overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Merced County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP	Not specified by county; state law requires sanitary food preparation area	Not specified in available sources; general sanitation and clean kitchen required
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Conditional	Depends-on-volume
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales including online and shipping within California. Class B: plus retail stores and restaurants within California. No in...	Class A: direct sales only (including online with local delivery/pickup or shipping within CA). Class B: direct + indirect sales (wholesale...	Class A: direct sales only (at home, farmers markets, events). Class B: direct and indirect sales including retail stores and online. Max 1...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food s...	Class A (direct sales, cap ~\$86,206/year) or Class B (direct+indirect, cap ~\$172,411/year). Must register with Santa Cruz County Environmen...	CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from Merced County Environmental Health; food handler ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable approved foods only	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods on CDPH approved list only; no refrigerated products	CDPH-approved non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	64,753	268,571	282,290

State context — California cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Class B permit holders may sell indirectly through retail stores and restaurants statewide; Class A registrants are limited to direct sales only and may not sell through any retail or wholesale venue.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

State dept cottage food page: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/california/>

Questions about San Benito 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/california/san-benito-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 San Benito County, California. 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/california/san-benito-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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