

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

San Joaquin County

California · Stockton · FIPS 06077 · Population 779,445 ·
Crosodo Index #979*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations); Class A/B system

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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 Joaquin 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

Conditional

PETS

Standard sanitation; no specific county guidance found

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 JOAQUIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #979* · FIPS 06077 · Stockton

San Joaquin County

Population 779,445 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations);
Class A/B system · **HIGH**

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

Yes (San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A: \$186 fee, direct sales only, up to current state cap (\$75,000). Class B: \$486 fee, direct and indirect sales, up to \$150,000. Food handler course (California-approved) required within 3 months. Max 1 non-family/household full-time employee.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard sanitation; no specific county guidance found

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. For incorporated cities (Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, etc.), check with the city's planning department for any supplemental requirements. Unincorporated areas: contact San Joaquin County Community Development Department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class B: kitchen inspection required. Class A: self-certified. Complaint-based thereafter.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A: \$186 fee, direct sales only, up to current state cap (\$75,000). Class B: \$486 fee, direct and indirect sales, up to \$150,000. Food handler course (California-approved) required within 3 months. Max 1 non-family/household full-time employee.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation; no specific county guidance found
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Food handler course required within 3 months of approval; California-approved provider
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state approved foods list

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — Class B: kitchen inspection required. Class A: self-certified. Complaint-based thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. For incorporated cities (Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, etc.), check with the city's planning department for any supplemental requirements. Unincorporated areas: contact San Joaquin County Community Development Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail/third-party delivery permitted within California). Class B: direct and indirect (restaurants, markets). Annual caps: Class A \$75,000; Class B \$150,000. California only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-family non-household full-time equivalent employee

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department CFO program

RESEARCH NOTES

San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department has a specific CFO registration/permitting form (directly retrieved) confirming Class A (\$186) and Class B (\$486) fees, the 3-month food handler training requirement, labeling requirements, and the 1 non-family full-time employee maximum. MEHKO status: San Joaquin County is not listed among California MEHKO opt-in jurisdictions (as of mid-2025). CFO is the applicable program.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sjgov.org/environmental-health>

<https://www.sjgov.org/community-development>

<https://www.sjgov.org>

<https://www.sjgov.org/docs/default-source/environmental-health-documents/food-and-restaurants/cfo-registration-permitting-form.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	San Joaquin County	Contra Costa County	Stanislaus County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard sanitation; no specific county guidance found	State baseline applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail/ third-party delivery permitted within California). Class B: direct and indirec...	MEHKO: meals for dine-in, take-out, and delivery; MEHKO may also serve as a commissary for permitted food carts. CFO: direct/ indirect sales...	Class A: direct sales only — at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local s...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies by city	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies by city	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A: \$186 fee, direct sales only, up to current state cap (...)	Contra Costa County adopted a MEHKO ordinance (Ordinance 2024-05) approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2024, effective July 1, ...	Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Stanislaus County Environmental Resources, no inspection. Class B: direc...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state approved foods list	State baseline applies	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only
POPULATION	779,445	1,162,648	552,063

State context — California cottage food law

San Joaquin 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 Joaquin 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-joaquin-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 Joaquin 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-joaquin-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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