

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Clay County

Florida · Green Cove Springs · FIPS 12019 · Population
219,650 · Crosodo Index #1253*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fl. Stat. \$500.80	Great	250000	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.

FLORIDA: CLAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1253* · FIPS 12019 · Green Cove Springs

Clay County

Population 219,650 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods with no registration, permit, or inspection required before operations. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)) bars local governments from restricting cottage food operations, though business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute. Standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida §500.80(6) preempts local government restrictions on cottage food operations. However, Clay County and its municipalities may require general home occupation or business licensing registration. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Clay County Planning or relevant municipality for home occupation permit specifics.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Florida cottage food inspections may only occur upon receipt of a written complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods with no registration, permit, or inspection required before operations. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)) bars local governments from restricting cottage food operations, though business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute. Standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement under Florida cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific handwashing requirement stated in Florida cottage food statute. Standard food safety practices apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature-control-for-safety) foods only. Standard safe storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Florida cottage food inspections may only occur upon receipt of a written complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Florida §500.80(6) preempts local government restrictions on cottage food operations. However, Clay County and its municipalities may require general home occupation or business licensing registration. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Clay County Planning or relevant municipality for home occupation permit specifics.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Florida cottage food law expressly permits online sales and mail-order delivery within the state. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, and event sales all permitted. \$250,000 annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee cap specified in Florida cottage food statute. Home-based business zoning may restrict non-resident employee presence.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; §559.955 (home-based business rules); Clay County zoning ordinances for home occupation

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida has one of the most producer-friendly cottage food frameworks nationally: no registration, no routine inspection, \$250,000 annual cap, and strong state preemption of local restrictions. Clay County is a suburban/exurban county east of Jacksonville. No county-level cottage food restrictions documented. Clay County Florida Health (clay.floridahealth.gov) handles environmental health but cottage food operations are exempt from their permitting requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://clay.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

<https://clay.floridahealth.gov>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/clay-county-discuss>

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

STATUTE Fla. Stat. §500.80	ANNUAL SALES CAP 250000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Florida cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

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

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Clay County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/clay-county-discuss>
