

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hardee County

Florida · — · FIPS 12049 · Population 26,068 · Crosodo Index #3073*

STATE BASELINE

Fl. Stat. §500.80; FL tier: Great

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

250000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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: HARDEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3073* · FIPS 12049 · —

Hardee County

Population 26,068 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80; FL tier: Great · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state or county-specific rule for cottage food

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning (No Hardee County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small agricultural/citrus county (pop. ~27,000) with county seat Wauchula. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint only (State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7); county cannot add inspections)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state or county-specific rule for cottage food
WATER SUPPLY	No state requirement for cottage food; county may have residential water standards
HANDWASHING	No state requirement for cottage food registration; standard GMP expected
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint only — State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7); county cannot add inspections
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning — No Hardee County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small agricultural/citrus county (pop. ~27,000) with county seat Wauchula. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Likely; Hardee County local business tax receipt; contact Hardee County Tax Collector

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Must comply with Hardee County signage ordinances
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer; online/mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/consignment; max \$250,000 annual gross sales
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state limit; local home occupation rules may apply

RESEARCH NOTES

No Hardee County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance surfaced in search. Small agricultural county in central Florida. State baseline (Fla. Stat. §500.80) governs; county cannot restrict cottage food production.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdHardee/>

<https://www.hardeecounty.net/building-zoning>

<https://www.hardeecounty.net>

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/Cottage-Food-Operations.pdf>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS425>

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

Hardee 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 Hardee County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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