

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

Florida · Tavares · FIPS 12069 · Population 386,829 · Crosodo
Index #1203*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. 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: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1203* · FIPS 12069 · Tavares

Lake County

Population 386,829 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TCS. Annual gross sales cap \$250,000. Products must be prepackaged with required label. State preempts local regulation of cottage food. Lake County home occupation rules apply for zoning compliance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lake County requires home occupation compliance and local business tax receipt for home-based businesses. State preempts local restrictions on cottage food production/storage/sale, but local ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours still apply.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State may inspect only upon consumer complaint per §500.80(7).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TCS. Annual gross sales cap \$250,000. Products must be prepackaged with required label. State preempts local regulation of cottage food. Lake County home occupation rules apply for zoning compliance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State may inspect only upon consumer complaint per §500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lake County requires home occupation compliance and local business tax receipt for home-based businesses. State preempts local restrictions on cottage food production/storage/sale, but local ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours still apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local home occupation rules may restrict.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; Lake County Code (home occupation and business tax receipt provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state cottage food law is well-documented. Lake County follows state baseline. \$250,000 cap. Strong state preemption. Business tax receipt required locally. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Lake County local rules not directly verified from .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://lake.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov>

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

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

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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