

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Manatee County

Florida · Bradenton · FIPS 12081 · Population 405,069 ·
Crosodo Index #1210*

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: MANATEE COUNTY

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Manatee County

Population 405,069 · 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 including 'Made in a cottage food operation that is not subject to Florida's food safety regulations.' State preempts local regulation of cottage food preparation, processing, storage, and sale. Manatee County home occupation rules apply for zoning compliance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Manatee County requires local home occupation compliance and business tax receipt for home-based businesses. State preempts local ordinances from restricting cottage food production/storage/sale (§500.80(6)), but operations must comply with county ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State may inspect only upon receipt of 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 including 'Made in a cottage food operation that is not subject to Florida's food safety regulations.' State preempts local regulation of cottage food preparation, processing, storage, and sale. Manatee County home occupation rules apply for zoning compliance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
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 receipt of consumer complaint per §500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Manatee County requires local home occupation compliance and business tax receipt for home-based businesses. State preempts local ordinances from restricting cottage food production/storage/sale (§500.80(6)), but operations must comply with county ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours.
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 sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local home occupation rules may restrict.

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state cottage food law is well-documented. Manatee County follows state baseline with no county-specific overrides found. \$250,000 cap (raised in 2021). No permit or registration needed. Local business tax receipt required. State preemption strong. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Manatee County-specific home occupation permit details not directly verified from county .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://manatee.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.mymanatee.org>

<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/manatee-county-discuss>

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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