

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Okaloosa County

Florida · Crestview · FIPS 12091 · Population 212,021 ·
Crosodo Index #1251*

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: OKALOOSA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1251* · FIPS 12091 · Crestview

Okaloosa County

Population 212,021 · 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. State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) bars local governments from restricting cottage food operations. Okaloosa County is home to several military installations (Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field); county zoning applies to unincorporated areas.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Okaloosa County and municipalities (Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Niceville, Destin, etc.) may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Okaloosa County Planning or relevant municipal planning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon receipt of written consumer 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. State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) bars local governments from restricting cottage food operations. Okaloosa County is home to several military installations (Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field); county zoning applies to unincorporated areas.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement under Florida cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no specific statutory handwashing requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon receipt of written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Okaloosa County and municipalities (Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Niceville, Destin, etc.) may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Okaloosa County Planning or relevant municipal planning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, and event/farmers market sales. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee cap 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); Okaloosa County zoning for home occupation

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state baseline applies. Okaloosa County (county seat: Crestview) is in the Florida Panhandle, home to Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field. Florida Health Okaloosa handles environmental health but cottage food is exempt from their permitting requirements. No county-specific overrides to Florida state law documented.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://okaloosa.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://okaloosa.floridahealth.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Okaloosa County	Santa Rosa County	Walton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, and event/farmers market sales. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholes...	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Sales at farmers markets, home, and other direct venues allowed.	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. \$250,000 annual sales cap (one of the highest in the country). No wholesale to di...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Florida cottage food law (\$500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods with no registration, permit, or inspection required be...	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods only. Annual sales cap \$250,000. No wholesale. State preemption clause (\$500.80(6))...	Any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety (non-TCS). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginn...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage practices.	Shelf-stable products stored in clean, dry conditions.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	212,021	188,994	76,618

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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