

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Okeechobee County

Florida · Okeechobee · FIPS 12093 · Population 42,369 ·
Crosodo Index #1182*

STATE BASELINE

Fla. Stat. §500.80 (Home Sweet Home Act, 2021)

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: OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

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Okeechobee County

Population 42,369 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 (Home Sweet Home Act, 2021) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be produced in operator’s home kitchen only; no garages, sheds, barns, or outbuildings. Motor home kitchens are not permitted. Products must be non-TCS (no time/temperature control for safety required). Production and storage must occur within the single-family domestic residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law (§500.80(6)) preempts local government from restricting cottage food operations. Cottage food operations must comply with applicable county and municipal laws regulating traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours of retail operation per §559.955. Contact Okeechobee County Planning and Development for any applicable home occupation standards.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint only per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7). No routine state inspections. Okeechobee County has no additional inspection authority under state preemption.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be produced in operator’s home kitchen only; no garages, sheds, barns, or outbuildings. Motor home kitchens are not permitted. Products must be non-TCS (no time/temperature control for safety required). Production and storage must occur within the single-family domestic residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Only potable water from a properly constructed on-site well or municipal water system
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored in the single-family domestic residence; no garage/shed/barn storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint only per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7). No routine state inspections. Okeechobee County has no additional inspection authority under state preemption.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State law (§500.80(6)) preempts local government from restricting cottage food operations. Cottage food operations must comply with applicable county and municipal laws regulating traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours of retail operation per §559.955. Contact Okeechobee County Planning and Development for any applicable home occupation standards.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed from residence, online, by mail-order, at farmers markets, flea markets, and roadside stands. Mail delivery explicitly permitted since 2021. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; local zoning compliance required for traffic/parking/noise/signage/hours

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida’s strong state preemption (Fla. Stat. §500.80(6)) means Okeechobee County cannot restrict cottage food operations beyond traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours rules. Okeechobee County is a rural south-central Florida county near Lake Okeechobee; no county-specific ordinance variations were found. Defaulted to FL state baseline with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://okeechobee.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us>

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

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

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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