

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Seminole County

Florida · Sanford · FIPS 12117 · Population 471,321 · Crosodo Index #1497*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. §500.80	Great	250000	HIGH	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: SEMINOLE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1497* · FIPS 12117 · Sanford

Seminole County

Population 471,321 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida §500.80 requires production in the operator’s residential kitchen only. Rented and commercial kitchens are not eligible. Florida preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)); Seminole County cannot prohibit or restrict cottage food preparation, processing, storage, or sale. The cottage food operation must comply with §559.955 home-based business conditions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens; standard food safety hygiene applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Seminole County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. CityRuleLookup (sourcing Municode Library, Seminole County, verified ~1 year ago) indicates a local business tax receipt and/or home occupation permit may be required. Florida §559.955 limits local authority; local governments may not impose requirements on home-based businesses more restrictive than those for residences without businesses; only business tax receipts (chapter 205) and reasonable traffic/parking/signage rules are permissible. The Land Development Code of Seminole County governs unincorporated areas. Cities within the county (Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, Winter Springs) have their own rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (FDACS may inspect only upon receipt of a complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine inspections. Seminole County Health Department cannot conduct food safety inspections of cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida §500.80 requires production in the operator’s residential kitchen only. Rented and commercial kitchens are not eligible. Florida preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)); Seminole County cannot prohibit or restrict cottage food preparation, processing, storage, or sale. The cottage food operation must comply with §559.955 home-based business conditions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens; standard food safety hygiene applies.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water from properly constructed on-site well or municipal water system required per FDACS guidance.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety guidance.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored on the premises of the cottage food operation per §500.80(4).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — FDACS may inspect only upon receipt of a complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine inspections. Seminole County Health Department cannot conduct food safety inspections of cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Seminole County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. CityRuleLookup (sourcing Municode Library, Seminole County, verified ~1 year ago) indicates a local business tax receipt and/or home occupation permit may be required. Florida §559.955 limits local authority: local governments may not impose requirements on home-based businesses more restrictive than those for residences without businesses; only business tax receipts (chapter 205) and reasonable traffic/parking/signage rules are permissible. The Land Development Code of Seminole County governs unincorporated areas. Cities within the county (Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, Winter Springs) have their own rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under Florida §500.80(2), products may be delivered in person to consumer, specific event venue, or by USPS/commercial carrier. Online orders and mail-order accepted. No wholesale. On-site pickup allowed if consistent with residential character. County and municipal traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours ordinances still apply per §500.80(6) exception.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Up to 2 non-resident employees or independent contractors per Florida §559.955(3)(a); additional remote employees permitted.

Relevant county code

Seminole County Land Development Code (unincorporated areas); Fla. Stat. §500.80; Fla. Stat. §559.955

RESEARCH NOTES

Seminole County (pop. ~471K, county seat Sanford, Orlando suburb) follows the Florida state preemption framework for cottage food. Florida §500.80(6) and §559.955 together create strong state preemption: FDACS guidance explicitly states 'No. The regulation of cottage food operations is preempted to the state. A local law, ordinance, or regulation may not prohibit a cottage food operation.' The county's codes-and-regulations page confirms the Land Development Code governs unincorporated Seminole County. CityRuleLookup (sourcing Seminole County Municode, verified ~1 year ago) confirms home occupation permit/business tax receipt required in addition to state rules. City-specific rules exist for Sanford, Altamonte Springs, and others — residents in incorporated areas must check their city code. The \$250,000 annual gross sales cap applies statewide. Confidence is high for the state preemption baseline; the local business tax receipt/home occupation permit requirement adds a medium-confidence local layer confirmed by CityRuleLookup.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://seminole.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov>

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/development-services/planning-development/codes-regulations>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/seminole-county-fl>

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/CottageFoodOperations.pdf>

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

Seminole 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.

<p>STATUTE Fla. Stat. §500.80</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP 250000</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT No</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
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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 Seminole County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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