

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Rapides Parish

Louisiana · Alexandria · FIPS 22079 · Population 129,536 ·
Crosodo Index #2130*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
La. R.S. §40:4.9	Okay	30000	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.

How to start — 60-second path

Rapides Parish, Louisiana — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

30000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Louisiana cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Louisiana home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Louisiana label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

LOUISIANA: RAPIDES PARISH

CROSODO INDEX #2130* · FIPS 22079 · Alexandria

Rapides Parish

Population 129,536 · State baseline: La. R.S. §40:4.9 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual gross sales capped at \$30,000. For four named baked goods categories (breads, cakes, cookies, pies): no employee assistance, pets excluded from preparation areas, refrigeration at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients. Parish sales tax certificate required before selling.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Rapides Parish may require a home occupation permit under parish zoning ordinance. Alexandria (city within Rapides Parish) has its own ordinances. Parish sales tax certificate required. No specific parish-level cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (LDH may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual gross sales capped at \$30,000. For four named baked goods categories (breads, cakes, cookies, pies): no employee assistance, pets excluded from preparation areas, refrigeration at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients. Parish sales tax certificate required before selling.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per Louisiana food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Perishable ingredients at 45°F or below. Finished shelf-stable products in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — LDH may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Rapides Parish may require a home occupation permit under parish zoning ordinance. Alexandria (city within Rapides Parish) has its own ordinances. Parish sales tax certificate required. No specific parish-level cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Indirect sales allowed for most low-risk foods. Direct sales from home, farmers markets, events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	For four named baked goods categories: no employees may assist in production.

Relevant county code

Rapides Parish Code of Ordinances (not specifically identified for cottage food); parish sales tax certificate required.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (LA) confirmed. Rapides Parish is in central Louisiana (Alexandria). No county-specific URLs in input. Parish follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.rapidescounty.gov>

<https://ldh.la.gov/page/cottage-food-laws>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/rapides-parish-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Rapides Parish	Allen Parish	Avoyelles Parish
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas.	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Indirect sales allowed for most low-risk foods. Direct sales from home, farmers markets, events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, events, online within LA, mail within LA). Big Four direct-to-consumer o...	Direct-to-consumer (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, events, online within LA, mail within LA). Big Four direct-to-consumer o...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual gross sales capped at \$30,000. For four named baked goods categories (breads, cakes, cookies, pies): no employee assistance, pets ex...	Annual sales cap \$30,000. No license, permit, or registration required (only sales tax certificates from LA Dept of Revenue and local paris...	Annual sales cap \$30,000. No license, permit, or registration required (only sales tax certificates from LA Dept of Revenue and local paris...
FOOD STORAGE	Perishable ingredients at 45°F or below. Finished shelf-stable products in food-safe containers.	Refrigeration at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients; appropriate storage for shelf-stable products	Refrigeration at 45°F or below for perishable ingredients; appropriate storage for shelf-stable products
POPULATION	129,536	22,798	39,529

State context — Louisiana cottage food law

Rapides Parish's rules sit on top of Louisiana's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
La. R.S. §40:4.13	30000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Limited (see notes) — Most low-risk foods may be sold indirectly (to restaurants, retail stores), but breads, cakes, cookies, and pies specifically may NOT be sold to any retail business or individual for resale — they are direct-to-consumer only.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Louisiana cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/louisiana.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=98863>

State dept cottage food page: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/cottage-food-laws>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/louisiana/>

Questions about Rapides Parish? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/rapides-parish-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/louisiana/rapides-parish-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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