

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Androscoggin County

Maine · Auburn · FIPS 23001 · Population 111,532 · Crosodo
Index #998*

STATE BASELINE

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); statewide Home Food Processor License pathway; kitchen inspection required for statewide license; no sales cap; Freedom tier

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Freedom	—	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.

MAINE: ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY

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Androscoggin County

Population 111,532 · State baseline: 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); statewide Home Food Processor License pathway; kitchen inspection required for statewide license; no sales cap; Freedom tier · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances (available in 80+ municipalities, broader foods allowed, no state inspection). Androscoggin County municipalities may have adopted local food sovereignty ordinances.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Maine has no county government equivalent. Each municipality in Androscoggin County (Auburn, Lewiston, etc.) has its own zoning. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances, municipal rules govern. Contact individual town/city in Androscoggin County for local permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Statewide Home Food Processor License requires kitchen inspection before license issued. Food Sovereignty Ordinance pathway does not require state inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances (available in 80+ municipalities, broader foods allowed, no state inspection). Androscoggin County municipalities may have adopted local food sovereignty ordinances.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during production.
WATER SUPPLY	Private well or septic users must submit water testing under statewide license pathway.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification for most products.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products for statewide license. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine approval.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Statewide Home Food Processor License requires kitchen inspection before license issued. Food Sovereignty Ordinance pathway does not require state inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Maine has no county government equivalent. Each municipality in Androscoggin County (Auburn, Lewiston, etc.) has its own zoning. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances, municipal rules govern. Contact individual town/city in Androscoggin County for local permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Maine allows direct sales under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinance allows direct producer-to-consumer within participating municipalities.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local municipality rules may apply.

Relevant county code

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); 7 M.R.S.A. §284

RESEARCH NOTES

Note: Input data has parsing issues (county_govt_url shows 'Freedom' which is a data entry error; actual ME tier is Freedom). Androscoggin County includes Lewiston and Auburn (the twin cities, pop combined ~80K). Maine's Freedom tier means broad allowances but the statewide license pathway requires kitchen inspection. Maine has no county government equivalent; each municipality has separate rules. PL 2025, c. 309 made significant amendments to the Food Sovereignty Act. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

Freedom

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml

<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/7/title7sec282.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Androscoggin County	Kennebec County	Cumberland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during producti...	Under statewide license pathway: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during ...	Standard sanitation; no specific state restriction
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Maine allows direct sales under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Maine allows direct sales (farmers markets, home, events) under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor l...	Under food sovereignty ordinance: direct producer-to-consumer sales broadly allowed. Under standard program: direct and indirect sales perm...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF, well/septic testing if applicable);...	If municipality has adopted local food sovereignty ordinance: most foods allowed, direct producer-to-consumer sales, no state license neede...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products for statewide license. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine a...	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University...	Appropriate storage per food type
POPULATION	111,532	124,003	303,357

State context — Maine cottage food law

Androscoggin County’s rules sit on top of Maine’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Yes — Under the statewide Home Food Processor License, producers may sell at any venue including restaurants, retail stores, farmers markets, and online, with no sales limit; indirect wholesale and retail channels are allowed once licensed and kitchen-inspected.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Maine cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/7/title7sec282.html>

State dept cottage food page: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml

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

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Androscoggin County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/maine/androscoggin-county-discuss>
