

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Aroostook County

Maine · Houlton · FIPS 23003 · Population 67,237 · Crosodo
Index #1566*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: AROOSTOOK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1566* · FIPS 23003 · Houlton

Aroostook County

Population 67,237 · State baseline: 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kitchen inspection required for home food processor license. Registration required. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales allowed. Perishable baked goods prohibited under statewide pathway. Acidified foods (salsas, pickles) require prior USDA/UMaine approval. Low-acid pressure-canned foods may not be sold. Food Sovereignty Act pathway available in participating municipalities with fewer restrictions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Maine home food processors must register with the Maine Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Municipalities participating in the Food Sovereignty Act may have their own ordinances. Aroostook County (largest county by area in eastern US) is very rural; most towns may or may not participate in Food Sovereignty Act.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required for home food processor license; complaint-based follow-up)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Kitchen inspection required for home food processor license. Registration required. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales allowed. Perishable baked goods prohibited under statewide pathway. Acidified foods (salsas, pickles) require prior USDA/UMaine approval. Low-acid pressure-canned foods may not be sold. Food Sovereignty Act pathway available in participating municipalities with fewer restrictions.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices required
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage; no perishable items under home processor pathway

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required for home food processor license; complaint-based follow-up
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Maine home food processors must register with the Maine Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Municipalities participating in the Food Sovereignty Act may have their own ordinances. Aroostook County (largest county by area in eastern US) is very rural; most towns may or may not participate in Food Sovereignty Act.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no out-of-state sales
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified at county level

RESEARCH NOTES

Maine Freedom-tier state. Aroostook County is the largest county by area east of the Mississippi River - very rural, agricultural region. Note: batch input had data corruption (county_govt_url showing 'Freedom' text). Kitchen inspection required for statewide license. Food Sovereignty Act offers municipality-level alternative. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

State context — Maine cottage food law

Aroostook 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.

<p>STATUTE 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act)</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP —</p>
<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes</p>	<p>FOOD HANDLER CERT No</p>
<p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes</p>	<p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
<p>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.</p>	

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

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