

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Franklin County

Maine · Farmington · FIPS 23007 · Population 30,902 ·  
Crosodo Index #1302\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## STATE TIER

Freedom

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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.

MAINE: FRANKLIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1302\* · FIPS 23007 · Farmington

# Franklin County

Population 30,902 · State baseline: 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act) · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License from ME DACF — requires kitchen inspection, well/septic testing if applicable, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances — in participating municipalities, nearly any food allowed for direct producer-to-consumer transactions. Franklin County municipalities with food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader foods including perishables.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Franklin County municipalities vary in whether they have adopted food sovereignty ordinances (localfoodrules.org confirms Franklin County is listed among counties with food sovereign communities). Individual towns within Franklin County administer their own zoning; consult each town for home occupation permit requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations for statewide Home Food Processor License. Local food sovereignty ordinances may not require inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License from ME DACF — requires kitchen inspection, well/septic testing if applicable, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances — in participating municipalities, nearly any food allowed for direct producer-to-consumer transactions. Franklin County municipalities with food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader foods including perishables.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required. Private well users must provide water test results (coliforms, nitrates, nitrites) for statewide home food processor license.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required per Maine food safety standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable foods required under statewide license. Acidified foods and low-sugar jams may require University of Maine lab approval. Local food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader storage requirements.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations for statewide Home Food Processor License. Local food sovereignty ordinances may not require inspection.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Franklin County municipalities vary in whether they have adopted food sovereignty ordinances (localfoodrules.org confirms Franklin County is listed among counties with food sovereign communities). Individual towns within Franklin County administer their own zoning; consult each town for home occupation permit requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Under statewide license: direct and indirect sales allowed. Under food sovereignty ordinances: direct producer-to-consumer sales allowed, including most food types. Sellers at farmers markets also need a Mobile Food Vendor license.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specifically restricted under statewide license framework.

### Relevant county code

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); ME DACF Home Food Processor License requirements; individual town ordinances.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Maine state baseline applied: Food Sovereignty Act (7 M.R.S.A. §282) plus statewide Home Food Processor License pathway. Franklin County is confirmed as having food sovereign communities per localfoodrules.org. The two-pathway system means producers should verify which pathway applies in their specific municipality. PL 2025, c. 309 expanded the Food Sovereignty Act definitions in 2025. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home\\_food\\_processor.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml)
- <https://www.localfoodrules.org/food-sovereignty-by-county/>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Franklin County	Androscoggin County	Kennebec County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited during production; animals typically excluded from production areas.	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 ...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under statewide license: direct and indirect sales allowed. Under food sovereignty ordinances: direct producer-to-consumer sales allowed, i...	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...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License from ME DACF — requires kitchen inspection, well/septic testing if applicable, most...	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);...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods required under statewide license. Acidified foods and low-sugar jams may require University of Maine lab approval. Local...	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...
POPULATION	29,839	111,532	124,003

## State context — Maine cottage food law

Franklin 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.

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

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

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### 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](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home_food_processor.shtml)

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

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## Questions?

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

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

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