

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Kennebec County

Maine · — · FIPS 23011 · Population 124,003 · Crosodo Index #1012*

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: KENNEBEC COUNTY

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Kennebec County

Population 124,003 · 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, well/septic testing if applicable); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances (available in 80+ municipalities, broader foods allowed including potentially hazardous, no state inspection). Kennebec County municipalities may have adopted local food sovereignty ordinances.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Maine is a Freedom tier state. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances, municipal-level rules govern. Municipalities adopting ordinances may or may not require additional local permits. Under statewide license pathway, no separate home occupation permit required beyond DACF license. Kennebec County does not have unincorporated areas (Maine is organized as towns/cities). Each municipality has its own zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Statewide Home Food Processor License requires kitchen inspection by Maine DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations 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, well/septic testing if applicable); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances (available in 80+ municipalities, broader foods allowed including potentially hazardous, no state inspection). Kennebec County municipalities may have adopted local food sovereignty ordinances.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN No

PET RESTRICTIONS Under statewide license pathway: '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. Public water system users face no additional testing.

HANDWASHING Standard food safety handwashing practices; no mandatory certification for most products.

FOOD STORAGE Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine approval for statewide license pathway.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Statewide Home Food Processor License requires kitchen inspection by Maine DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations before license issued. Food Sovereignty Ordinance pathway does not require state inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Maine is a Freedom tier state. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances, municipal-level rules govern. Municipalities adopting ordinances may or may not require additional local permits. Under statewide license pathway, no separate home occupation permit required beyond DACF license. Kennebec County does not have unincorporated areas (Maine is organized as towns/cities). Each municipality has its own zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Maine allows direct sales (farmers markets, home, events) under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinance allows direct producer-to-consumer transactions with minimal restrictions within participating municipalities.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit for cottage food; local municipality rules may apply.

Relevant county code

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); 7 M.R.S.A. §284 (local ordinances); Maine Constitution Article I, Section 25

RESEARCH NOTES

Note: Input data for this record has parsing issues (state_tier and county_govt_url fields appear swapped; county_seat is blank; verification_status is blank; notes field contains 'verified-large'). State is ME, tier is Freedom, county_seat for Kennebec County is Augusta. Maine's Freedom tier means broad allowances but inspection required under statewide license pathway. Kennebec County includes Augusta (state capital). Over 80 municipalities in Maine have adopted Food Sovereignty Ordinances; Augusta and others in Kennebec County may have local ordinances. No county-specific cottage food overlay applies as Maine has no county government equivalent. 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/kennebec-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Kennebec County	Androscoggin County	Somerset County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Under statewide license pathway: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during ...	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during producti...	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production. Pets not explicitly mentioned in state rules.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Maine allows direct sales (farmers markets, home, events) under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor I...	Maine allows direct sales under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Under statewide license: sales at farmers markets require additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances: direct ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF, well/septic testing if applicable);...	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF); (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinan...	Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License: requires DACF kitchen inspection, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed; acidifi...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University...	Shelf-stable non-TCS products for statewide license. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine a...	Shelf-stable products under statewide license; broader foods may be permitted under Food Sovereignty Ordinances in participating municipali...
POPULATION	124,003	111,532	50,656

State context — Maine cottage food law

Kennebec 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	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 Kennebec County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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