

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Oxford County

Maine · Paris · FIPS 23017 · Population 58,276 · Crosodo  
Index #1971\*

## STATE BASELINE

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); Maine Home Food Processor License

## 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: OXFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1971\* · FIPS 23017 · Paris

## Oxford County

Population 58,276 · State baseline: 7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); Maine Home Food Processor License · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing if applicable. Most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance (Food Sovereignty Act) — in municipalities that have adopted an ordinance, almost any food can be sold direct to consumers without state licensing. Oxford County municipalities must be checked individually.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restrictions per GMP.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Oxford County municipalities vary. Under the Food Sovereignty Act pathway, municipalities with adopted ordinances allow direct producer-to-consumer sales. Operators should check with their specific town in Oxford County.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required for the statewide Home Food Processor License by DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations. Complaint-based inspection possible.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing if applicable. Most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance (Food Sovereignty Act) — in municipalities that have adopted an ordinance, almost any food can be sold direct to consumers without state licensing. Oxford County municipalities must be checked individually. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restrictions per GMP.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Private well or septic requires testing under the statewide Home Food Processor License pathway.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| HANDWASHING                | Required as part of kitchen inspection under the statewide license pathway.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable, non-TCS products required under statewide license; Food Sovereignty Act pathway has fewer restrictions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Inspection & permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required for the statewide Home Food Processor License by DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations. Complaint-based inspection possible.                                                   |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Oxford County municipalities vary. Under the Food Sovereignty Act pathway, municipalities with adopted ordinances allow direct producer-to-consumer sales. Operators should check with their specific town in Oxford County. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Under statewide license: farmers markets, home sales, events. Under Food Sovereignty Act: direct-to-consumer including home sales, farmers markets, and other venues. Farmers market sellers also need a Mobile Food Vendor license under the statewide pathway. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified; household members may assist.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Relevant county code

Check individual Oxford County municipalities for Food Sovereignty Ordinances (over 80 Maine municipalities have adopted them as of 2025).

### RESEARCH NOTES

Maine's dual-pathway system is unique. Oxford County is a rural western Maine county. Many Maine towns have adopted Local Food Sovereignty Ordinances allowing broader sales without state licensing. The Food Sovereignty Act was amended by PL 2025, c. 309. Acidified foods under the statewide license require University of Maine lab approval (~\$26-39/product). Maine's Constitution Article I, Section 25 (Right to Food, 2021) provides additional legal foundation.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.oxfordcounty.gov>

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/inspection/home\\_food\\_processor.shtml](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/oxford-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Oxford County                                                                                                                                  | Androscoggin County                                                                                                                            | York County                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restri... | Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production; pets prohibited per GMP standards during producti... | Maine statewide Home Food Processor License rules prohibit 'uncontrolled children' in the kitchen during production. Pet restrictions apply... |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Under statewide license: farmers markets, home sales, events. Under Food Sovereignty Act: direct-to-consumer including home sales, farmers ... | Maine allows direct sales under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Ordinan... | Statewide license pathway: most sales channels permitted; farmers market vendors need additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereign... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing i... | 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 Maine DACF, well/septic testing if not on... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable, non-TCS products required under statewide license; Food Sovereignty Act pathway has fewer restrictions.                          | Shelf-stable non-TCS products for statewide license. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University of Maine a... | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods under the statewide license. Acidified foods (salsas, pickles, certain dressings) require prior University of Ma... |
| POPULATION                 | 58,276                                                                                                                                         | 111,532                                                                                                                                        | 212,691                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Maine cottage food law

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

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

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Oxford County, Maine. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### Your business here

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

[crosodo.com/nb/maine/oxford-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maine/oxford-county-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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