

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Somerset County

Maine · Skowhegan · FIPS 23025 · Population 50,656 ·
Crosodo Index #684*

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: SOMERSET COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #684* · FIPS 23025 · Skowhegan

Somerset County

Population 50,656 · 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: requires DACF kitchen inspection, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed; acidified foods require University of Maine lab approval (~\$26-39/product). (2) Food Sovereignty Ordinance municipalities: direct producer-to-consumer transactions exempt from most rules in participating municipalities. Somerset County municipalities with food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production. Pets not explicitly mentioned in state rules.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Maine governance is town-based. Individual towns in Somerset County govern their own zoning. Recommend verifying with the specific town planning board (e.g., Skowhegan, Pittsfield, Madison, Solon). Some towns may have adopted Food Sovereignty Ordinances.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Statewide license requires DACF inspection. Food Sovereignty Ordinance pathway: no inspection required for participating municipality transactions. Some Somerset County municipalities may have Food Sovereignty Ordinances.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License: requires DACF kitchen inspection, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed; acidified foods require University of Maine lab approval (~\$26-39/product). (2) Food Sovereignty Ordinance municipalities: direct producer-to-consumer transactions exempt from most rules in participating municipalities. Somerset County municipalities with food sovereignty ordinances may allow broader foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Under statewide license: 'uncontrolled children' prohibited in kitchen during production. Pets not explicitly mentioned in state rules.
WATER SUPPLY	Under statewide license: well/septic testing required if not on public systems.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of DACF kitchen inspection under statewide license.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products under statewide license; broader foods may be permitted under Food Sovereignty Ordinances in participating municipalities.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Statewide license requires DACF inspection. Food Sovereignty Ordinance pathway: no inspection required for participating municipality transactions. Some Somerset County municipalities may have Food Sovereignty Ordinances.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Maine governance is town-based. Individual towns in Somerset County govern their own zoning. Recommend verifying with the specific town planning board (e.g., Skowhegan, Pittsfield, Madison, Solon). Some towns may have adopted Food Sovereignty Ordinances.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under statewide license: sales at farmers markets require additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances: direct producer-to-consumer transactions broadly permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

7 M.R.S.A. §282; 7 M.R.S.A. §284; Maine DACF Home Food Processor rules; PL 2025 c. 309

RESEARCH NOTES

Maine has a unique dual-track system. Somerset County is a largely rural central Maine county. Some municipalities in Maine have adopted Food Sovereignty Ordinances (80+ statewide as of 2025). PL 2025 c. 309 made significant amendments including new definitions and expanded food producer definition. Maine Constitution Article I, Section 25 (Right to Food, 2021) provides additional foundation. No Somerset County-specific rules found; governance is at town level in Maine.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.somersetcounty.gov>

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/somerset-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Somerset County	Aroostook County	Kennebec 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 not explicitly mentioned in state rules.	Not specified in state law	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: sales at farmers markets require additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Under Food Sovereignty Ordinances: direct ...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no out-of-state sales	Maine allows direct sales (farmers markets, home, events) under statewide license. Farmers market sales also require a Mobile Food Vendor l...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License: requires DACF kitchen inspection, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed; acidifi...	Kitchen inspection required for home food processor license. Registration required. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales allowed. Perishab...	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License (requires kitchen inspection by DACF, well/septic testing if applicable);...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products under statewide license; broader foods may be permitted under Food Sovereignty Ordinances in participating municipali...	Appropriate storage; no perishable items under home processor pathway	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards. Acidified foods and low-acid pressure-canned foods require prior University...
POPULATION	50,656	67,237	124,003

State context — Maine cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

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Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

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

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/somerset-county-discuss

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