

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Washington County

Maine · Machias · FIPS 23029 · Population 31,383 · Crosodo  
Index #1270\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## STATE TIER

Freedom

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

## 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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1270\* · FIPS 23029 · Machias

# Washington County

Population 31,383 · 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. Washington County is Maine’s easternmost and most rural county (Downeast Maine).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Under statewide license: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Washington County municipalities vary; Washington County is confirmed as having food sovereign communities (localfoodrules.org). Individual towns within Washington County administer their own zoning. Many areas are unorganized territories.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF 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. Washington County is Maine’s easternmost and most rural county (Downeast Maine). |
| <b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b> | No  |
| <b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>           | Under statewide license: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.  |
| <b>WATER SUPPLY</b>               | Potable water required. Private well users must provide water test results 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 may require University of Maine lab approval.  |

## Inspection & permitting

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>    | Yes — Kitchen inspection required by ME DACF for statewide Home Food Processor License. Local food sovereignty ordinances may not require inspection.  |
| <b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b> | Varies — Washington County municipalities vary; Washington County is confirmed as having food sovereign communities (localfoodrules.org). Individual towns within Washington County administer their own zoning. Many areas are unorganized territories. |
| <b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b> | Varies   |

**Customer-facing rules**

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

**Relevant county code**

7 M.R.S.A. §282; ME DACF Home Food Processor License requirements; individual town/plantation ordinances.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Maine state baseline applied. Washington County confirmed as having food sovereign communities per localfoodrules.org. Washington County is Downeast Maine — large, rural, with significant Native American communities and blueberry farming. Many unorganized territories exist. Confidence medium.

**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/washington-county-discuss>

## State context — Maine cottage food law

Washington 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.

---

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

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

---