

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

York County

Maine · Alfred · FIPS 23031 · Population 212,691 · Crosodo
Index #798*

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: YORK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #798* · FIPS 23031 · Alfred

York County

Population 212,691 · 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 kitchen inspection by Maine DACF, well/septic testing if not on public systems, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed; some acidified foods require University of Maine lab approval. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance (for participating municipalities): in towns with a food sovereignty ordinance, almost any food can be sold direct producer-to-consumer with minimal restrictions. York County has many municipalities; check individual town ordinances for food sovereignty participation.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Maine statewide Home Food Processor License rules prohibit 'uncontrolled children' in the kitchen during production. Pet restrictions apply under GMP standards; pets may be considered a contamination risk during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (York County municipalities vary. Under the statewide license pathway, local zoning may require a home occupation permit. Under the Food Sovereignty Act, local municipal ordinances govern; some municipalities have adopted food sovereignty ordinances (over 80+ in Maine as of 2025). York County municipalities like Kittery, York, Wells, Kennebunk, Biddeford, and Saco each have their own zoning rules. Contact individual town/city offices for home occupation permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Statewide Home Food Processor License requires initial kitchen inspection by DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations before license is issued. Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance path: no routine inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License: requires kitchen inspection by Maine DACF, well/septic testing if not on public systems, most non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed; some acidified foods require University of Maine lab approval. (2) Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance (for participating municipalities): in towns with a food sovereignty ordinance, almost any food can be sold direct producer-to-consumer with minimal restrictions. York County has many municipalities; check individual town ordinances for food sovereignty participation.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Maine statewide Home Food Processor License rules prohibit 'uncontrolled children' in the kitchen during production. Pet restrictions apply under GMP standards; pets may be considered a contamination risk during inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	If not on public water/sewer systems: well water and septic testing required for the statewide Home Food Processor License pathway.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required; verified during kitchen inspection under the statewide license pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods under the statewide license. Acidified foods (salsas, pickles, certain dressings) require prior University of Maine School of Food and Agriculture approval (~\$26-39/product). Low-acid pressure-canned foods may not be sold.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Statewide Home Food Processor License requires initial kitchen inspection by DACF Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations before license is issued. Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance path: no routine inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — York County municipalities vary. Under the statewide license pathway, local zoning may require a home occupation permit. Under the Food Sovereignty Act, local municipal ordinances govern; some municipalities have adopted food sovereignty ordinances (over 80+ in Maine as of 2025). York County municipalities like Kittery, York, Wells, Kennebunk, Biddeford, and Saco each have their own zoning rules. Contact individual town/city offices for home occupation permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Statewide license pathway: most sales channels permitted; farmers market vendors need additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereignty Act pathway: direct producer-to-consumer transactions; sales must be in-state and directly to the end consumer.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Maine cottage food programs; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

7 M.R.S.A. §282 (Food Sovereignty Act); Maine DACF Home Food Processor License regulations; individual York County municipality zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Input JSON had malformed fields (county_seat was 'Freedom', notes was 'verified-large'). York County seat is Alfred (confirmed from general knowledge; York County is a coastal county in southern Maine). The input fields for county_govt_url, county_health_url, county_planning_url, and county_code_municode appear to have been shifted/corrupted in the source data — I used the yorkcountymaine.gov and yorkcounty.gov/planning values that appeared in shifted positions. Maine's dual pathway (statewide license vs. food sovereignty) makes York County complex as municipalities vary widely. Over 80 Maine municipalities have food sovereignty ordinances as of 2025. PL 2025 c. 309 made significant amendments to the Food Sovereignty Act in 2025.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.yorkcountymaine.gov>

<https://www.yorkcounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.yorkcountymaine.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/york-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	York County	Cumberland County	Oxford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Maine statewide Home Food Processor License rules prohibit 'uncontrolled children' in the kitchen during production. Pet restrictions apply...	Standard sanitation; no specific state restriction	Under the statewide license, 'uncontrolled children' are prohibited in the kitchen during production; pets likely subject to similar restri...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Statewide license pathway: most sales channels permitted; farmers market vendors need additional Mobile Food Vendor license. Food Sovereign...	Under food sovereignty ordinance: direct producer-to-consumer sales broadly allowed. Under standard program: direct and indirect sales perm...	Under statewide license: farmers markets, home sales, events. Under Food Sovereignty Act: direct-to-consumer including home sales, farmers ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License: requires kitchen inspection by Maine DACF, well/septic testing if not on...	If municipality has adopted local food sovereignty ordinance: most foods allowed, direct producer-to-consumer sales, no state license neede...	Maine has two pathways: (1) Statewide Home Food Processor License — requires license, kitchen inspection by DACF, and well/septic testing i...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods under the statewide license. Acidified foods (salsas, pickles, certain dressings) require prior University of Ma...	Appropriate storage per food type	Shelf-stable, non-TCS products required under statewide license; Food Sovereignty Act pathway has fewer restrictions.
POPULATION	212,691	303,357	58,276

State context — Maine cottage food law

York 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.

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

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

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