

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

New York · Watertown · FIPS 36045 · Population 117,445 ·
Crosodo Index #1658*

STATE BASELINE

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4; no sales cap; free registration (location-specific); no inspection; baked goods only (must have kill step); indirect sales allowed; NY only

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	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.

NEW YORK: JEFFERSON COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (New York Home Processor program allows pre-packaged non-TCS baked goods (kill step/baking required). Registration free and location-specific. Sales within New York State only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Jefferson County home occupation permit requirements found. NY Home Processor registration is the primary requirement. Local municipality zoning may require home occupation permits. Jefferson County includes Fort Drum (US Army post). Contact Jefferson County Planning or Watertown city zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. Complaint-driven investigation possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — New York Home Processor program allows pre-packaged non-TCS baked goods (kill step/baking required). Registration free and location-specific. Sales within New York State only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no specific county overlay.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable baked goods only. No no-bake items, fudge, nut butters, roasted coffee.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections. Complaint-driven investigation possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Jefferson County home occupation permit requirements found. NY Home Processor registration is the primary requirement. Local municipality zoning may require home occupation permits. Jefferson County includes Fort Drum (US Army post). Contact Jefferson County Planning or Watertown city zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	NY allows sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within New York State only). Wholesale also allowed under NY Home Processor.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (NY tier Good). Jefferson County includes Fort Drum and Watertown in northern NY near Canadian border. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jeffersoncounty.gov>

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/12/HomeProcessor.pdf>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/251-Z-4>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/new-york/jefferson-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	Oswego County	St. Lawrence County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state pet restriction, but local zoning officials should be consulted before commencing home-based business.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	NY allows sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within New York State only). Wholesale also...	NY allows sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and online (within New Yor...	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and internet — all within ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	New York Home Processor program allows pre-packaged non-TCS baked goods (kill step/baking required). Registration free and location-specifi...	New York Home Processor program allows pre-packaged non-TCS baked goods (must be baked - kill step required). All products must be shelf-st...	New York Home Processor Exemption: Only baked goods (must be baked — no no-bake items), certain jams, jellies, preserves, snack mixes, and ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable baked goods only. No no-bake items, fudge, nut butters, roasted coffee.	Shelf-stable baked goods only. No refrigerated products. No no-bake items, fudge, nut butters, roasted coffee.	All products must be non-potentially hazardous and pre-packaged in the home. Prohibited: refrigerated or TCS products, no-bake items, pickl...
POPULATION	117,445	118,037	108,670

State context — New York cottage food law

Jefferson County's rules sit on top of New York's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — Wholesale to restaurants, cafes, and grocery stores within New York State is explicitly permitted. Products may also be sold online (NY residents only) and via delivery. Shipping out of state is not permitted. Registration is free, location-specific, and has no expiration date.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [New York cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/251-Z-4>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/new-york/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Jefferson County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/new-york/jefferson-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

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Jefferson County, New York. 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/new-york/jefferson-county-discuss

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