

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Adams County

Ohio · West Union · FIPS 39001 · Population 27,671 · Crosodo Index #1938\*

## STATE BASELINE

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20

## STATE TIER

**Good**

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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.

## OHIO: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1938\* · FIPS 39001 · West Union

## Adams County

Population 27,671 · State baseline: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20 ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration. Products must be labeled per O.R.C. §3715.023. Sales within Ohio only; no out-of-state sales. Direct and indirect (retail) sales both permitted. Adams County zoning may apply to home-based businesses in unincorporated areas.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level permit required for cottage food. Adams County zoning resolutions may require a home occupation permit for unincorporated areas. Contact Adams County Building & Zoning or the county seat office in West Union for local requirements.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (ODA has sampling authority; no routine inspection required.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration. Products must be labeled per O.R.C. §3715.023. Sales within Ohio only; no out-of-state sales. Direct and indirect (retail) sales both permitted. Adams County zoning may apply to home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No  |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.   |
| WATER SUPPLY               | No specific water testing requirement in Ohio cottage food law.   |
| HANDWASHING                | No specific statutory handwashing mandate beyond good manufacturing practices.  |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.   |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — ODA has sampling authority; no routine inspection required.  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — No state-level permit required for cottage food. Adams County zoning resolutions may require a home occupation permit for unincorporated areas. Contact Adams County Building & Zoning or the county seat office in West Union for local requirements. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies  |

### Customer-facing rules

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional   |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional   |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments and food service operations are both permitted within Ohio. No out-of-state sales. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state statute.   |

### Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State law (O.R.C. §3715.025 and OAC Ch. 901:3-20) governs. OSU Extension notes operators should check local zoning for home-based retail restrictions.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Adams County is a rural county in southern Ohio. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance was found. Ohio has no sales cap and no registration requirement but maintains a specific ODA-approved product list. Indirect sales to licensed retailers are permitted statewide. OSU Extension Farm Office (March 2023) confirms operators should check local zoning. Defaulted to state baseline at medium confidence.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-901:3-20>

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

## State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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|--|--------------------------|
| <b>STATUTE</b>   | <b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>  |
| O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20   | —                        |
| <b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>   | <b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> |
| No   | No                       |
| <b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>  | <b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> |
| No   | No                       |
| <b>INDIRECT SALES</b>  |                          |
| Yes — Labeled cottage food products may be sold to or used by retail food establishments and food service operations licensed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3717. This enables indirect/wholesale sales within Ohio. Products may not be sold outside the state of Ohio. |                          |

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/ohio/>

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/ohio/adams-county-discuss>

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