

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Allen County

Ohio · Lima · FIPS 39003 · Population 102,087 · Crosodo
Index #726*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Good

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.

OHIO: ALLEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #726* · FIPS 39003 · Lima

Allen County

Population 102,087 · 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 operations limited to approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-PHF bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee beans, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, and spice mixes with commercially dried ingredients. No registration or inspection required. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lima and other municipalities in Allen County may have home occupation zoning requirements. Allen County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input. No specific Allen County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. Exempt from ODA licensing.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Ohio cottage food operations limited to approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-PHF bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee beans, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, and spice mixes with commercially dried ingredients. No registration or inspection required. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Only approved product list items. No acidified foods, low-acid canned foods, or PHF. No fresh-fruit-dipped candies. No reduced oxygen packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections. Exempt from ODA licensing.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lima and other municipalities in Allen County may have home occupation zoning requirements. Allen County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input. No specific Allen County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at home, farmers markets, events. Indirect sales to retailers also permitted. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Allen County code section identified. State law governs: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20.

RESEARCH NOTES

Allen County was flagged as 'verified-large' but has no county URLs. State baseline governs. Lima is a mid-sized northwestern Ohio city. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Allen 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.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
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.	

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

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/>

Questions?

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

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