

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Athens County

Ohio · Athens · FIPS 39009 · Population 61,276 · Crosodo Index #1899\*

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: ATHENS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1899\* · FIPS 39009 · Athens

# Athens County

Population 61,276 · 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 are allowed from home kitchens with no registration or inspection required. Approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) limits allowed items. No sales cap. No out-of-state sales.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; standard hygiene practices recommended.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Athens County and the City of Athens may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should verify with Athens County or their local zoning authority.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine or complaint-triggered inspection authority specified for cottage food in ORC; ODA food safety division handles complaints generally.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Ohio cottage food operations are allowed from home kitchens with no registration or inspection required. Approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) limits allowed items. No sales cap. No out-of-state sales.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; standard hygiene practices recommended.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general GMP.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and shelf-stable; no reduced oxygen packaging permitted.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine or complaint-triggered inspection authority specified for cottage food in ORC; ODA food safety division handles complaints generally.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Athens County and the City of Athens may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should verify with Athens County or their local zoning authority.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Ohio allows direct and indirect sales of cottage food products within Ohio only. Sales at farmers markets, retail stores, online (in-state), and home pickup all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

Athens County zoning code (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Athens County. State baseline applies. Ohio has a specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) that limits eligible items — not all non-TCS foods qualify; producers must verify their product appears on the approved list. No sales cap, no registration required.

#### 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/athens-county-discuss>

## State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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

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