

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Geauga County

Ohio · Chardon · FIPS 39055 · Population 95,455 · Crosodo Index #1654*

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: GEAUGA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1654* · FIPS 39055 · Chardon

Geauga County

Population 95,455 · 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: no registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler certification required. Only Ohio-approved product list items may be sold. Ohio Amish community presence in Geauga County may mean significant cottage food activity; state law applies uniformly. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Gauga County townships and municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No Geauga County-specific cottage food permit identified. Geauga County has a significant Amish and small-farm community, which may affect local interpretation of home-based business rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection authority for Ohio cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Ohio cottage food law: no registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler certification required. Only Ohio-approved product list items may be sold. Ohio Amish community presence in Geauga County may mean significant cottage food activity; state law applies uniformly. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | No specific restriction under Ohio cottage food law. |
| WATER SUPPLY | No specific requirement. |
| HANDWASHING | No specific statutory requirement. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-PHF approved products only; no reduced oxygen packaging. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — No routine inspection authority for Ohio cottage food operations. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Geauga County townships and municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No Geauga County-specific cottage food permit identified. Geauga County has a significant Amish and small-farm community, which may affect local interpretation of home-based business rules. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct and indirect sales allowed within Ohio. No out-of-state sales. Farmers markets, events, home pickup, online sales all permitted within Ohio. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | No limit specified in Ohio cottage food law. |

Relevant county code

No Geauga County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Geauga County-specific cottage food rules found. Geauga County is notable for its large Amish and Mennonite population, which historically has significant cottage food activity (baked goods, produce stands). Ohio’s approved product list approach means only specifically listed products may be sold — this is more restrictive than general non-TCS standards in other states.

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/geauga-county-discuss>

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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