

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

Ohio · Painesville · FIPS 39085 · Population 232,236 ·
Crosodo Index #805*

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: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #805* · FIPS 39085 · Painesville

Lake County

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MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Ohio approved product list only (OAC 901:3-20-04). No registration required, no inspection required. No sales cap. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; sanitary kitchen required

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lake County and Painesville municipalities may require home occupation permits. Lake County is a suburban county east of Cleveland. Check with Lake County Planning Commission.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based enforcement)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Ohio approved product list only (OAC 901:3-20-04). No registration required, no inspection required. No sales cap. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Not specified in state statute; sanitary kitchen required |
| WATER SUPPLY | Potable water supply required |
| HANDWASHING | No formal certification required |
| FOOD STORAGE | Ohio approved non-TCS products only; no acidified foods, no low-acid canned foods |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — No routine inspection; complaint-based enforcement |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Lake County and Painesville municipalities may require home occupation permits. Lake County is a suburban county east of Cleveland. Check with Lake County Planning Commission. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Ohio-only sales allowed; direct to consumers. Farmers markets, events, home, online with Ohio delivery. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Not specified in state statute |

Relevant county code

O.R.C. §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code §901:3-20-04

RESEARCH NOTES

Lake County OH follows Ohio state baseline. No registration or inspection required. Approved product list approach. No Lake County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed but no specific Lake County .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lakecountyohio.gov>

<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/lake-county-discuss>

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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