

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lorain County

Ohio · Elyria · FIPS 39093 · Population 313,101 · Crosodo Index #1357*

STATE BASELINE

Ohio OAC §901:3-20 (Cottage Food Law); no license required; annual sales cap \$35,000 direct sales; home kitchen allowed; no inspection

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	MEDIUM	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: LORAIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1357* · FIPS 39093 · Elyria

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; \$35,000 annual direct sales cap; no state license or inspection required; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Lorain County municipalities (Elyria, Lorain city) may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with local planning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Complaint-based investigation possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; \$35,000 annual direct sales cap; no state license or inspection required; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Lorain County municipalities (Elyria, Lorain city) may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with local planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events; indirect sales to retailers permitted under separate \$300,000 annual cap with additional requirements
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio has two tiers: \$35,000 direct sales cap and higher cap for indirect sales with registration. No Lorain County-specific overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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