

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lucas County

Ohio · Toledo · FIPS 39095 · Population 430,014 · Crosodo Index #2586*

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: LUCAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2586* · FIPS 39095 · Toledo

Lucas County

Population 430,014 · 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?

Conditional (Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20) requires no registration or permit from the state. Only state-approved non-TCS foods from the specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) are permitted (bakery products, candy, flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, spice mixes). No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) has food safety oversight. Home occupations in Toledo governed by Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400 governs home occupations within city limits. For unincorporated Lucas County areas, county zoning applies. Home occupations must be secondary to residential use. Ohio cottage food law does not preempt local zoning, so operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local municipality (Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania, Oregon, etc.).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required under Ohio cottage food law. TLCHD does not recognize foods prepared in home kitchens for mobile/licensed food establishments.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20) requires no registration or permit from the state. Only state-approved non-TCS foods from the specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) are permitted (bakery products, candy, flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, spice mixes). No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) has food safety oversight. Home occupations in Toledo governed by Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only from ODA-approved product list. No reduced oxygen packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required under Ohio cottage food law. TLCHD does not recognize foods prepared in home kitchens for mobile/licensed food establishments.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400 governs home occupations within city limits. For unincorporated Lucas County areas, county zoning applies. Home occupations must be secondary to residential use. Ohio cottage food law does not preempt local zoning, so operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local municipality (Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania, Oregon, etc.).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Cottage food may be sold directly or indirectly (Ohio allows some indirect sales). Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. Sales at farmers markets, from home, online permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20-04 (approved products); Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400 (home occupations).

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio state cottage food law well-documented. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) note: home kitchen foods are not recognized for mobile or licensed food establishments, but cottage food law itself does not require licensure. Toledo zoning code (January 2024 version) confirmed to have home occupation section (§1105.0400). Ohio has a specific approved product list (unlike many states) — only products on OAC 901:3-20-04 list are permitted. No registration or inspection required at state level. Local zoning compliance required. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Toledo zoning code section confirmed to exist but not fully reviewed for cottage food specifics.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://co.lucas.oh.us>

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

<https://cdn.toledo.oh.gov/uploads/documents/Plan-Commission/TMZC/TMZC-2024-01-17.pdf>

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

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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