

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Mahoning County

Ohio · Youngstown · FIPS 39099 · Population 227,979 ·  
Crosodo Index #803\*

## STATE BASELINE

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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: MAHONING COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #803\* · FIPS 39099 · Youngstown

# Mahoning County

Population 227,979 · 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 state law permits cottage food production from a home kitchen for non-potentially hazardous foods on the approved product list. No separate commercial kitchen required. Unincorporated Mahoning County zoning governs home-based business use; municipalities within the county (Youngstown, Boardman, etc.) have their own zoning. Ohio preempts local health department regulation of cottage food operations.)

### SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

### PETS ALLOWED?

Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food operations, but GMP practices discourage pet presence in food prep areas.

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Mahoning County unincorporated areas: zoning regulations enforced by local townships; many Ohio townships require a home occupation permit for any business operating from a residence. Individual municipal zoning (Youngstown, Austintown, etc.) varies. Recommend verifying with Mahoning County Planning Commission and relevant township/city zoning office.)

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

### INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection under Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.025). ODA may investigate upon complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Ohio state law permits cottage food production from a home kitchen for non-potentially hazardous foods on the approved product list. No separate commercial kitchen required. Unincorporated Mahoning County zoning governs home-based business use; municipalities within the county (Youngstown, Boardman, etc.) have their own zoning. Ohio preempts local health department regulation of cottage food operations.

### SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

### PET RESTRICTIONS

Ohio Admin. Code does not explicitly prohibit pets for cottage food operations, but GMP practices discourage pet presence in food prep areas.

### WATER SUPPLY

No specific county water testing requirement for cottage food operations under Ohio state law.

### HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing facilities required per state GMP guidelines.

### FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination; standard GMP storage practices apply.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection under Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.025). ODA may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Mahoning County unincorporated areas: zoning regulations enforced by local townships; many Ohio townships require a home occupation permit for any business operating from a residence. Individual municipal zoning (Youngstown, Austintown, etc.) varies. Recommend verifying with Mahoning County Planning Commission and relevant township/city zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Ohio state law permits direct sales from home, at events, farmers markets, and online. Delivery to customers is allowed. No county-specific restrictions documented beyond state baseline.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state limit for cottage food operations; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Mahoning County zoning enforced at township level; see individual township zoning ordinances. County Building Regulations reference state ORC and local zoning.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio state baseline applies; no county-level cottage food overrides found. Mahoning County enforces zoning through townships (Boardman, Austintown, Canfield, etc.) and municipalities (Youngstown). Ohio cottage food law (ORC §3715.025) allows no-registration home sales of approved non-PHF foods up to \$75,000/year (per Massillon/Ohio reference found; confirm current cap). Home occupation permitting is administered at the local township/municipal level. No Mahoning County-specific health department cottage food page found.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov>

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

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

<https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/621/Licensing-Permits>

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

## State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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

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