

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mercer County

Ohio · Celina · FIPS 39107 · Population 42,648 · Crosodo Index #1914*

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

2026-05-06

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: MERCER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1914* · FIPS 39107 · Celina

Mercer County

Population 42,648 · 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 allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration. Products must be labeled per O.R.C. §3715.023. Sales within Ohio only. Direct and indirect (retail) sales both permitted. Mercer County zoning may apply to home-based businesses in unincorporated areas.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level permit required. Mercer County zoning resolutions may require a home occupation permit for unincorporated areas. Contact Mercer County Regional Planning Commission in Celina for local requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (ODA has sampling authority; no routine inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration. Products must be labeled per O.R.C. §3715.023. Sales within Ohio only. Direct and indirect (retail) sales both permitted. Mercer County zoning may apply to home-based businesses in unincorporated areas.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement in Ohio cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory handwashing mandate beyond good manufacturing practices.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — ODA has sampling authority; no routine inspection required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No state-level permit required. Mercer County zoning resolutions may require a home occupation permit for unincorporated areas. Contact Mercer County Regional Planning Commission in Celina for local requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State law (O.R.C. §3715.025 and OAC Ch. 901:3-20) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Mercer County is a rural county in northwest Ohio near the Indiana border. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance found. Defaulted to Ohio state baseline at medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-901:3-20>

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

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Mercer 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 O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY 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 Mercer County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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