

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ross County

Ohio · Chillicothe · FIPS 39141 · Population 76,957 · Crosodo Index #1617*

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: ROSS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1617* · FIPS 39141 · Chillicothe

Ross County

Population 76,957 · 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 (Approved product list only (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-potentially hazardous bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee beans, dry baking mixes in jars, dry herbs, spice mixes with commercially dried ingredients. No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level registration required for cottage food operations. Ross County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Ross County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. ODA may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Approved product list only (OAC 901:3-20-04): non-potentially hazardous bakery products, candy (not dipped fresh fruit), flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee beans, dry baking mixes in jars, dry herbs, spice mixes with commercially dried ingredients. No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required at state level.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored appropriately. No reduced oxygen packaging permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. ODA may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state-level registration required for cottage food operations. Ross County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Ross County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted within Ohio. No sales outside Ohio. Specific approved product list applies.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; OAC 901:3-20. No Ross County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio cottage food law has no sales cap and no registration requirement, but has a specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) and prohibits sales outside Ohio. No Ross County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

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/ross-county-discuss>

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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