

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Summit County

Ohio · Akron · FIPS 39153 · Population 539,361 · Crosodo Index #1226*

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: SUMMIT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1226* · FIPS 39153 · Akron

Summit County

Population 539,361 · 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 (Cottage Food: home must be primary residence with only one stove/oven for domestic use. Home Bakery (broader product license): requires separate Home Bakery License and kitchen inspection. Both programs: no pets indoors for Home Bakery; pets permitted for basic Cottage Food production (no home bakery license).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Ohio Home Bakery Law: pets banned from indoors at all times. Cottage food (basic): no specific pet restriction

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Ohio state cottage food law does NOT preempt local ordinances. Summit County and City of Akron may have home occupation permit requirements. Operators should contact Summit County Planning/Zoning or City of Akron Planning Department to determine if a home occupation permit is required for cottage food production from a residential property.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Cottage Food: no inspection required. Ohio Home Bakery License: kitchen inspection required before license issued. ODA may sample food products to check for misbranding/adulteration.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Cottage Food: home must be primary residence with only one stove/oven for domestic use. Home Bakery (broader product license): requires separate Home Bakery License and kitchen inspection. Both programs: no pets indoors for Home Bakery; pets permitted for basic Cottage Food production (no home bakery license).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Ohio Home Bakery Law: pets banned from indoors at all times. Cottage food (basic): no specific pet restriction
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
HANDWASHING	Implied by good sanitation practices; no specific separate provision for cottage food
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored at primary residence; standard home kitchen storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — Cottage Food: no inspection required. Ohio Home Bakery License: kitchen inspection required before license issued. ODA may sample food products to check for misbranding/adulteration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Ohio state cottage food law does NOT preempt local ordinances. Summit County and City of Akron may have home occupation permit requirements. Operators should contact Summit County Planning/Zoning or City of Akron Planning Department to determine if a home occupation permit is required for cottage food production from a residential property.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Cottage food and home bakery products may be sold directly from home, online, at farmers markets, community events, grocery stores, and restaurants within Ohio. No interstate sales permitted. No annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law

Relevant county code

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20. Local: Summit County/City of Akron zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio has two tiers: Cottage Food (no permit, limited product list, direct sales and wholesale allowed within Ohio) and Home Bakery Law (license required, broader products including perishable baked goods). Ohio does NOT preempt local ordinances. Summit County/Akron home occupation permit requirements not confirmed from direct source. Key Ohio distinction: retail wholesale sales to grocery stores and restaurants are allowed for both cottage food and home bakery (unusual nationally). No interstate sales. No annual cap. Confidence medium: state law confirmed from official ODA page and IJ research; Summit County-specific local rules not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://co.summitoh.net>

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/ohio/>

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

State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

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