

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Adams County

Pennsylvania · Gettysburg · FIPS 42001 · Population 104,604
· Crosodo Index #1754*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	Good	—	MEDIUM	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.

PENNSYLVANIA: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1754* · FIPS 42001 · Gettysburg

Adams County

Population 104,604 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania’s Limited Food Establishment (LFE) allows non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods: baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with testing requirements), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. An initial on-site inspection is required before the registration is issued. Registration fee is \$35 for 2 years. All material must be submitted at least 60 days prior to operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction for LFE, but standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Gettysburg and Adams County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Adams County is a tourist/agricultural county near the Gettysburg battlefield. No specific Adams County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state LFE framework.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply. Submit application at least 60 days before operating.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Pennsylvania’s Limited Food Establishment (LFE) allows non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods: baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with testing requirements), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. An initial on-site inspection is required before the registration is issued. Registration fee is \$35 for 2 years. All material must be submitted at least 60 days prior to operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state pet restriction for LFE, but standard sanitation applies.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state water requirement listed, but home inspection is required and inspectors will check sanitation including water supply.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing required; verified during pre-operational inspection.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring refrigeration are prohibited. Low-acid canned foods (LACF) have additional requirements. Meat, poultry, dairy generally not permitted without additional licensing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply. Submit application at least 60 days before operating.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Gettysburg and Adams County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. Adams County is a tourist/agricultural county near the Gettysburg battlefield. No specific Adams County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state LFE framework.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Online sales and delivery allowed. Sales to retail establishments conditionally permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Adams County code section identified. State law governs: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737.

RESEARCH NOTES

Adams County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Pennsylvania requires initial kitchen inspection before registration — more burdensome than most states. Registration fee is \$35 for 2-year registration. 60-day lead time required. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&tI=03&div=0&chpt=57>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Adams County	Franklin County	Cumberland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction for LFE, but standard sanitation applies.	Pets in the home are a concern under GMP requirements; animals may not be in food prep areas.	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Online sales and delivery allowed. Sales to retail establishments conditionally permi...	Direct sales and limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales allowed within Pennsylvania. Wholesale to restaurants and food establishmen...	Direct and some indirect sales allowed via Limited Food Establishment registration; markets, home sales, online, and some retail channels.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania’s Limited Food Establishment (LFE) allows non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods: baked goods, jams/ jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year renewal). Initial on-site inspection required before registr...	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; su...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring refrigeration are prohibited. Low-acid canned foods (LACF) have additional requirements. Meat, poultry,...	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.	Non-TCS shelf-stable; no refrigerated finished products
POPULATION	104,604	156,084	261,269

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Adams County's rules sit on top of Pennsylvania's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Yes

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Registration includes sales direct from the production site including internet sales. However, a separate Retail Food Facility License may be required for sales at events or Farmers Markets. Businesses aiming to sell across state lines might also need FDA registration. The registration covers home-based operations in residential kitchens as well as residential-style kitchens in alternate locations such as churches, fire halls, or remodeled garages. Not available in Philadelphia County.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Pennsylvania cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&t1=03&div=0&chpt=57>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/pennsylvania/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Adams County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/adams-county-discuss>
