

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Butler County

Pennsylvania · Butler · FIPS 42019 · Population 194,562 ·
Crosodo Index #1825*

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: BUTLER COUNTY

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Butler County

Population 194,562 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and initial on-site inspection before operating. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods permitted. Application at least 60 days before operating. Butler County is north of Pittsburgh in the Pittsburgh metro area.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

PA inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas addressed as GMP issue during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Butler County and municipalities (Butler City, Cranberry Township, Mars, etc.) may require home occupation permits. Contact Butler County Planning Commission or relevant municipal zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and initial on-site inspection before operating. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods permitted. Application at least 60 days before operating. Butler County is north of Pittsburgh in the Pittsburgh metro area.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	PA inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas addressed as GMP issue during inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Water supply adequacy may be assessed during initial on-site inspection.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial on-site inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products only. Standard GMP storage.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Butler County and municipalities (Butler City, Cranberry Township, Mars, etc.) may require home occupation permits. Contact Butler County Planning Commission or relevant municipal zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	PA LFE permits direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Home pickup, delivery, and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit cap in PA LFE statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Butler County zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania state baseline applies. Butler County (county seat: Butler) is north of Pittsburgh. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. PA Limited Food Establishment program state-administered.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.butlercounty.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Butler County	Beaver County	Westmoreland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	PA inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas addressed as GMP issue during inspection.	Home kitchen inspected; pets should be kept away from food prep areas.	Pets excluded from food production areas during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	PA LFE permits direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Home pickup, delivery, and farmers markets permitted.	Direct sales and internet sales from production site. Farmers market sales may require separate license.	Direct to consumer and limited indirect sales (farmer's markets, retail); no online-only sales without physical presence permitted under st...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and initial on-site inspection be...	Registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Non-hazardous foods not requi...	Must register as Limited Food Establishment with PA Dept of Agriculture; kitchen inspection required before operating; only non-TCS shelf-s...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products only. Standard GMP storage.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary, pest-free conditions
POPULATION	194,562	167,629	354,414

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Butler 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

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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&ttl=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 Butler County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Butler County, Pennsylvania. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/butler-county-discuss

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