

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Centre County

Pennsylvania · Bellefonte · FIPS 42027 · Population 158,665 ·
Crosodo Index #2781*

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: CENTRE COUNTY

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Centre County

Population 158,665 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year renewal). Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Non-TCS foods only (those not requiring refrigeration). Not available in Philadelphia County. Must submit application at least 60 days prior to operating. Allowed foods: baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home are a concern under GMP requirements; animals may not be in food prep areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Centre County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. Penn State is located in Centre County; local home occupation rules may vary by municipality. No county-specific cottage food overlay found beyond state rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year renewal). Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Non-TCS foods only (those not requiring refrigeration). Not available in Philadelphia County. Must submit application at least 60 days prior to operating. Allowed foods: baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home are a concern under GMP requirements; animals may not be in food prep areas.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) testing may be required as part of registration review.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required; diagram of processing areas required with application.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination and cross-contact.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Centre County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. Penn State is located in Centre County; local home occupation rules may vary by municipality. No county-specific cottage food overlay found beyond state rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales allowed within Pennsylvania. Wholesale to restaurants and food establishments has restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Centre County Zoning Ordinance; 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. State baseline governs. PA requires initial inspection and \$35 registration fee. No Centre County-specific cottage food code identified beyond state rules. County govt URL verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://centrecountypa.gov>

<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/centre-county-discuss>

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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