

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Columbia County

Pennsylvania · Bloomsburg · FIPS 42037 · Population 64,924
· Crosodo Index #2399*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment)

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Columbia County, Pennsylvania — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Good manufacturing practice applies; kitchen assessed during initial inspection

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Pennsylvania cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Pennsylvania home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Pennsylvania label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

PENNSYLVANIA: COLUMBIA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2399* · FIPS 42037 · Bloomsburg

Columbia County

Population 64,924 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment) · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Must submit 60 days prior to operating. Non-TCS foods only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Good manufacturing practice applies; kitchen assessed during initial inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Columbia County in central Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg is notable as the county seat and a college town — Bloomsburg University). Local borough or township zoning may apply. Contact Columbia County Planning at (570) 389-5620.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection before registration; routine inspections thereafter)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Must submit 60 days prior to operating. Non-TCS foods only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Good manufacturing practice applies; kitchen assessed during initial inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well documentation may be required
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required; assessed during initial inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection before registration; routine inspections thereafter
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Columbia County in central Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg is notable as the county seat and a college town — Bloomsburg University). Local borough or township zoning may apply. Contact Columbia County Planning at (570) 389-5620.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed. No sales cap. Online and mail order permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Columbia County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania requires initial inspection for Limited Food Establishment. Columbia County in north-central PA; Bloomsburg is home to Bloomsburg University. No specific county overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.columbiacounty.gov>

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

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/columbia-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Columbia County	Northumberland County	Lycoming County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Good manufacturing practice applies; kitchen assessed during initial inspection	No specific restriction under PA LFE, but kitchen inspection covers general cleanliness standards.	Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed. No sales cap. Online and mail order permitted.	Direct and limited indirect sales. Online/mail order within Pennsylvania; in-person sales at home, farmers markets, and events. Must apply ...	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required before registrati...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737): no sales cap. Registration required (\$35 for 2-year reg...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Lycoming County is outside Philadelphia ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated finished products.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.
POPULATION	64,924	91,340	114,022

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Columbia 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** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania.

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 about Columbia County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/columbia-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 Columbia 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 on Crosodo.

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

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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