

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Crawford County

Pennsylvania · Meadville · FIPS 42039 · Population 83,876 ·
Crosodo Index #2465*

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: CRAWFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2465* · FIPS 42039 · Meadville

Crawford County

Population 83,876 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Same as all PA counties (except Philadelphia): Limited Food Establishment registration (\$35, 2-year), initial kitchen inspection required, 60-day advance application. Only non-PHF foods allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Crawford County and the City of Meadville may have home occupation ordinances. No specific Crawford County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Crawford County Planning or City of Meadville zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required before LFE registration. Subsequent routine inspections during registration period.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Same as all PA counties (except Philadelphia): Limited Food Establishment registration (\$35, 2-year), initial kitchen inspection required, 60-day advance application. Only non-PHF foods allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water or well water testing may be required during application review.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen inspection covers food safety infrastructure.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required before LFE registration. Subsequent routine inspections during registration period.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Crawford County and the City of Meadville may have home occupation ordinances. No specific Crawford County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Crawford County Planning or City of Meadville zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Pennsylvania LFE allows direct and limited indirect sales within Pennsylvania framework.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Crawford County-specific cottage food code identified. 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Crawford County follows Pennsylvania’s LFE framework. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/crawford-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Crawford County	Mercer County	Venango County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.	Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.	Not specified in state cottage food law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Pennsylvania LFE allows direct and limited indirect sales within Pennsylvania framework.	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE. Products may be sold at farmers markets, events, home, and to some retaile...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all PA counties (except Philadelphia): Limited Food Establishment registration (\$35, 2-year), initial kitchen inspection required, ...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Mercer County is outside Philadelphia Co...	Must apply for Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection required be...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage required.
POPULATION	83,876	110,600	50,475

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Crawford 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	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 Crawford County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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