

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cumberland County

Pennsylvania · Carlisle · FIPS 42041 · Population 261,269 ·
Crosodo Index #1691*

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: CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1691* · FIPS 42041 · Carlisle

Cumberland County

Population 261,269 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Each food category has specific requirements. Not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Cumberland County municipalities may require home occupation permits. Cumberland County has no county-wide zoning. Individual municipalities (Carlisle Borough, townships) have their own zoning ordinances. Carlisle is a borough — check with Carlisle Borough zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued; subsequent routine inspections apply)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Each food category has specific requirements. Not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety standards
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued; subsequent routine inspections apply
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Cumberland County municipalities may require home occupation permits. Cumberland County has no county-wide zoning. Individual municipalities (Carlisle Borough, townships) have their own zoning ordinances. Carlisle is a borough — check with Carlisle Borough zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales allowed via Limited Food Establishment registration; markets, home sales, online, and some retail channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Cumberland County PA is listed as 'pattern' verification status with no county URLs provided. Pennsylvania's Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program applies. Cumberland County is a second-class county with no county-wide zoning. Confidence medium – state law confirmed but no specific Cumberland County .gov source found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cumberlandcounty.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/cumberland-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cumberland County	Dauphin County	York County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection	Pets excluded from food production areas	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and some indirect sales allowed via Limited Food Establishment registration; markets, home sales, online, and some retail channels.	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Cannot sell in Philadelphia County. Online sales and in-state deli...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; su...	PA LFE registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; no refrigerated finished products	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.
POPULATION	261,269	286,108	457,051

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/cumberland-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 Cumberland 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/cumberland-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise