

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Elk County

Pennsylvania · Ridgway · FIPS 42047 · Population 30,608 ·
Crosodo Index #1735*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	Good	—	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

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: ELK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1735* · FIPS 42047 · Ridgway

Elk County

Population 30,608 · 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/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (does not apply here). Acidified and fermented foods require recipe submission and laboratory testing approval.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (PA LFE application packet (Section 2) explicitly requires producers to first contact their local municipality to verify zoning allows a food business at the proposed location. Elk County has no county-wide zoning. Ridgway Borough and rural townships have their own ordinances. Producers must document zoning approval before PDA application.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued; subsequent routine inspections apply; assigned to PA Region 1 (Meadville office))

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (does not apply here). Acidified and fermented foods require recipe submission and laboratory testing approval.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well requires testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety standards
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued; subsequent routine inspections apply; assigned to PA Region 1 (Meadville office)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — PA LFE application packet (Section 2) explicitly requires producers to first contact their local municipality to verify zoning allows a food business at the proposed location. Elk County has no county-wide zoning. Ridgway Borough and rural townships have their own ordinances. Producers must document zoning approval before PDA application.
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 allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility License for farmers market sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; PA LFE application packet (Rev 3/2024)

RESEARCH NOTES

Elk County is a rural north-central Pennsylvania county known for its elk herd. PA Limited Food Establishment program under 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 is the operative framework. Elk County falls within PA Region 1 (Meadville office: 13410 Dunham Rd., Meadville PA 16335, 814-332-6890). No county-wide zoning; municipalities govern.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.elkcountypa.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Elk County	Cameron County	Forest County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation standards during inspection
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility Lice...	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility Lice...	Direct sales and limited indirect sales allowed under LFE registration; online sales permitted; may need separate Retail Food Facility Lice...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit applic...	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit applic...	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35/year); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit applic...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product	Non-TCS shelf-stable finished products; no refrigeration required for finished product
POPULATION	30,608	4,447	7,294

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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