

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lawrence County

Pennsylvania · New Castle · FIPS 42073 · Population 85,907 ·
Crosodo Index #2486*

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: LAWRENCE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2486* · FIPS 42073 · New Castle

Lawrence County

Population 85,907 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration is issued. Must submit application at least 60 days before operating. Only non-PHF (non-temperature-controlled) foods allowed. Program not available in Philadelphia County; all other PA counties including Lawrence County are eligible.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specifically stated in state law; kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Lawrence County and the City of New Castle may have home occupation ordinances. No Lawrence County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Lawrence County Planning or City of New Castle zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required before LFE registration is issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply during registration period. PA Dept. of Agriculture administers.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration is issued. Must submit application at least 60 days before operating. Only non-PHF (non-temperature-controlled) foods allowed. Program not available in Philadelphia County; all other PA counties including Lawrence County are eligible.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specifically stated in state law; kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Included in application review; public water or well water testing may be required.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen inspection covers food safety infrastructure including handwashing.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirement beyond general food safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required before LFE registration is issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply during registration period. PA Dept. of Agriculture administers.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Lawrence County and the City of New Castle may have home occupation ordinances. No Lawrence County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Lawrence County Planning or City of New Castle zoning office.
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 (farmers markets, events, online with in-state delivery, retail stores). Some TCS foods are prohibited. See 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 for full channel details.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Lawrence County follows Pennsylvania’s Limited Food Establishment framework. The \$35 fee for a 2-year registration and initial kitchen inspection are notable requirements. No Lawrence County-specific overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from PA.gov agency page; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&tli=03&div=0&chpt=57>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lawrence County	Mercer County	Beaver County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specifically stated in state law; kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.	Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.	Home kitchen inspected; pets should be kept away from food prep areas.
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 (farmers markets, events, online with in-state delivery, retail stores). Some TCS...	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.	Direct sales and internet sales from production site. Farmers market sales may require separate license.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection requi...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Mercer County is outside Philadelphia Co...	Registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Non-hazardous foods not requi...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirement beyond general food safety.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.
POPULATION	85,907	110,600	167,629

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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