

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Luzerne County

Pennsylvania · Wilkes-Barre · FIPS 42079 · Population  
325,396 · Crosodo Index #2419\*

## STATE BASELINE

**3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Limited Food Establishment license required; kitchen inspection required; no sales cap**

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
<b>Good</b>	—	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>2026-05-05</b>

**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: LUZERNE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2419\* · FIPS 42079 · Wilkes-Barre

# Luzerne County

Population 325,396 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Limited Food Establishment license required; kitchen inspection required; no sales cap · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (PA Limited Food Establishment registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Pets excluded from food production areas during production

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Local municipalities within Luzerne County may require home occupation zoning permits; operator should verify with local municipality)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Initial inspection before license issuance; annual renewal)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — PA Limited Food Establishment registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Pets excluded from food production areas during production
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; well water testing may be needed
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Handwashing sink required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Initial inspection before license issuance; annual renewal
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Local municipalities within Luzerne County may require home occupation zoning permits; operator should verify with local municipality
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern-status county. Same PA LFE baseline applies. Luzerne County has no dedicated county health department food program; state PDA handles inspections.

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**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/luzerne-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Luzerne County	Lackawanna County	Monroe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	<b>Pets excluded from food production areas during production</b>	PA Department of Agriculture home kitchen inspection verifies compliance with food safety standards; pet presence in food preparation areas...	Home kitchen inspected; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	<b>Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed</b>	Pennsylvania LFE program permits sales directly to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup...	Direct sales from production site and internet sales included in registration. Farmers market sales may require separate Retail Food Facili...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	<b>PA Limited Food Establishment registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required</b>	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) law requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection bef...	Registration required with PA Department of Agriculture (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registrat...
FOOD STORAGE	<b>Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions</b>	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices required.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.
POPULATION	325,396	215,672	168,128

## State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Luzerne 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
Yes	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
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.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Pennsylvania cottage food law report](#).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&t1=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/>

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## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Luzerne County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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