

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lycoming County

Pennsylvania · Williamsport · FIPS 42081 · Population
114,022 · Crosodo Index #2427*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment); no sales cap; registration required (\$35/2-year); initial inspection required; limited indirect sales; not available in Philadelphia County

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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: LYCOMING COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2427* · FIPS 42081 · Williamsport

Lycoming County

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Lycoming County is outside Philadelphia County, so LFE program applies. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Lycoming County and Williamsport city may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific county overlay found. State LFE registration is primary regulatory requirement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply. Submit application at least 60 days before operating.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED Yes — Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Lycoming County is outside Philadelphia County, so LFE program applies. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN No

PET RESTRICTIONS Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required; well water testing may be required if not on public system.

HANDWASHING Adequate handwashing facilities required and assessed at inspection.

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply. Submit application at least 60 days before operating.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Varies — Lycoming County and Williamsport city may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific county overlay found. State LFE registration is primary regulatory requirement.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (PA tier Good). Lycoming County includes Williamsport (pop ~28K). No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

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/lycoming-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lycoming County	Northumberland County	Columbia County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.	No specific restriction under PA LFE, but kitchen inspection covers general cleanliness standards.	Good manufacturing practice applies; kitchen assessed during initial inspection
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.	Direct and limited indirect sales. Online/mail order within Pennsylvania; in-person sales at home, farmers markets, and events. Must apply ...	Direct and indirect sales allowed. No sales cap. Online and mail order permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Lycoming County is outside Philadelphia ...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737): no sales cap. Registration required (\$35 for 2-year reg...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required before registrati...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated finished products.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage required
POPULATION	114,022	91,340	64,924

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Lycoming 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&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/>

Questions?

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

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