

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

McKean County

Pennsylvania · Smethport · FIPS 42083 · Population 41,806 ·
Crosodo Index #2822*

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: MCKEAN COUNTY

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McKean County

Population 41,806 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initial on-site inspection is required before registration is issued. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams and jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with pH testing requirements), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. McKean County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture jurisdiction.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (McKean County municipalities have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. McKean County does not administer cottage food permits; that is handled by PA Dept. of Agriculture for the registration. Municipal-level home occupation permits may be required by individual townships and boroughs.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initial on-site inspection is required before registration is issued. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams and jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with pH testing requirements), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. McKean County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture jurisdiction.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement beyond standard food code compliance.
HANDWASHING	Required per food establishment inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — McKean County municipalities have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. McKean County does not administer cottage food permits; that is handled by PA Dept. of Agriculture for the registration. Municipal-level home occupation permits may be required by individual townships and boroughs.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules typically restrict to family members.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 (Limited Food Establishment provisions). Local zoning varies by municipality.

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania LFE program is well-documented with state .gov source. Rural north-central PA county. Bradford City is within McKean County. PA Dept of Agriculture governs LFE statewide. No county health dept. State rules high-confidence; county-specific municipal zoning not researched at municipality level. Confidence medium: state rules apply uniformly, municipal home occupation rules vary.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mckeancountypa.org>

<https://www.mckeancountypa.org>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	McKean County	Cameron County	Elk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.	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	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.	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	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi...	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, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.	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	41,806	4,447	30,608

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

McKean 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

—

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

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