

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Northampton County

Pennsylvania · Easton · FIPS 42095 · Population 314,299 ·
Crosodo Index #2388*

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 |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 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: NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2388* · FIPS 42095 · Easton

Northampton County

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

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

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets excluded from food production areas

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Local municipalities in Northampton County (Easton, Bethlehem) may require home occupation zoning permits)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection before license issuance; annual renewal)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — PA LFE registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Pets excluded from food production areas |
| WATER SUPPLY | Potable water required |
| HANDWASHING | Handwashing sink required |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Yes — Initial inspection before license issuance; annual renewal |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — No county-specific home occupation permit identified. Local municipalities in Northampton County (Easton, Bethlehem) may require home occupation zoning permits |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

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

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Same PA LFE baseline. Northampton County includes part of Lehigh Valley (Bethlehem). No county-specific overlay found.

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/northampton-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Northampton County | Lehigh County | Bucks County |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Conditional | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Pets excluded from food production areas | Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production. | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes | Conditional | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed | Direct-to-consumer sales and limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted. | Direct sales from production site, online sales, farmers market sales, and retail store sales are all allowed. Interstate sales may require... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies | Varies | Yes |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| RESTRICTIONS | PA LFE registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required | Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi... | Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions | Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. | Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions; no temperature-sensitive products |
| POPULATION | 314,299 | 374,110 | 645,163 |

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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