

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Northumberland County

Pennsylvania · Sunbury · FIPS 42097 · Population 91,340 ·  
Crosodo Index #2502\*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

## How to start — 60-second path

Northumberland County, Pennsylvania — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

### STATE SALES CAP

—

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

### INSPECTION

**Yes**

### PETS

**No specific restriction under PA LFE, but kitchen inspection covers general cleanliness standards.**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Pennsylvania cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

### LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Pennsylvania home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Pennsylvania label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

## PENNSYLVANIA: NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2502\* · FIPS 42097 · Sunbury

## Northumberland County

Population 91,340 · 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 (3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737): no sales cap. Registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued; subsequent routine inspections apply. Allowed: non-TCS foods not requiring refrigeration including baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen foods. Program NOT available in Philadelphia County; all other PA counties including Northumberland are eligible.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under PA LFE, but kitchen inspection covers general cleanliness standards.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Northumberland County (Sunbury) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Northumberland County-specific cottage food permit beyond state LFE registration identified.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Routine inspections apply after registration. Must submit materials 60 days prior to operating.)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration (3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737): no sales cap. Registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued; subsequent routine inspections apply. Allowed: non-TCS foods not requiring refrigeration including baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen foods. Program NOT available in Philadelphia County; all other PA counties including Northumberland are eligible.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific restriction under PA LFE, but kitchen inspection covers general cleanliness standards.

## WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement stated; kitchen inspection covers general sanitation.

## HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement; initial inspection covers food safety practices.

## FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated finished products.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Routine inspections apply after registration. Must submit materials 60 days prior to operating.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Northumberland County (Sunbury) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Northumberland County-specific cottage food permit beyond state LFE registration identified.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                          |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct and limited indirect sales. Online/mail order within Pennsylvania; in-person sales at home, farmers markets, and events. Must apply 60 days before operating. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | No specific limit stated.                                                                                                                                            |

**Relevant county code**

No Northumberland County-specific cottage food code identified.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No Northumberland County-specific cottage food rules found. Pennsylvania's LFE program requires initial inspection and 60-day lead time before operating. The program is available in all PA counties except Philadelphia. Northumberland County (Sunbury) is in central Pennsylvania. The \$35 fee is for 2-year registration per input notes; state dept page confirms annual renewal also at \$35.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.northumberlandcounty.gov>

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

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

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/northumberland-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/northumberland-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

## State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Northumberland 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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**STATUTE**

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737

**ANNUAL SALES CAP**

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**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.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Pennsylvania cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania](https://crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania).

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**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/>

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**Questions about Northumberland County?** Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

[crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/northumberland-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/northumberland-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

[crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/northumberland-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/northumberland-county-discuss)

#### Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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