

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Tioga County

Pennsylvania · Wellsboro · FIPS 42117 · Population 40,508 ·
Crosodo Index #2829*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: TIOGA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2829* · FIPS 42117 · Wellsboro

Tioga County

Population 40,508 · 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. Tioga 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 (Tioga 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. Tioga 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. Tioga 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 — Tioga 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. Tioga 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. Wellsboro is county seat. 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.tiogacountypa.us>

<https://www.tiogacountypa.us>

<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/tioga-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Tioga County	Potter County	Bradford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.	Likely subject to standard food safety GMP requirements; inspection will verify.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
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-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.	Direct and limited indirect sales permitted. Farmers markets, home pickup, online, and some retail permitted. Must apply at least 60 days b...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
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...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration), an initial on-site kitchen inspection, and sub...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated products required; proper storage verified during inspection.
POPULATION	40,508	16,526	60,159

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Tioga 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

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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.

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&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/>

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

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

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

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

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

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

crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/tioga-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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