

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Union County

Pennsylvania · Lewisburg · FIPS 42119 · Population 44,923 ·
Crosodo Index #2841*

| 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: UNION COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2841* · FIPS 42119 · Lewisburg

Union County

Population 44,923 · 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. Union 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 (Union 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. Union 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. Union 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 — Union 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. Union 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. Home to Bucknell University. PA Dept of Agriculture governs LFE statewide. No separate county health dept for food. Lewisburg Borough has its own zoning. 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.unionco.org>

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<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/union-county-discuss>

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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