

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

York County

Pennsylvania · York · FIPS 42133 · Population 457,051 ·
Crosodo Index #2824*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737	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: YORK COUNTY

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York County

Population 457,051 · 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. York 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 (York County municipalities (York City, Dover Township, Spring Garden Township, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. York County government website: yorkcountypa.gov. York County does not administer cottage food permits; municipalities do.)

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. York 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 — York County municipalities (York City, Dover Township, Spring Garden Township, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances governing home occupations. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone. York County government website: yorkcountypa.gov . York County does not administer cottage food permits; municipalities do.
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. Cannot sell in Philadelphia County. 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. York County has no county health department administering food permits; PA Dept. of Agriculture has jurisdiction statewide. York County planning office handles zoning but individual municipalities (York City, townships) have their own zoning codes. Initial inspection required is a key restriction vs. many states. Confidence medium: state rules high-confidence; county-specific zoning not researched at municipal level.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.yorkcounty.gov/planning>

<https://yorkcountypa.gov>

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

<https://yorkcountypa.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	York County	Lancaster County	Dauphin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection	Pets excluded from food production areas
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. Cannot sell in Philadelphia County. Online sales and in-state deli...	All venues permitted: direct from home, online, retail stores, restaurants, interstate. Retail Food Facility License may be required for fa...	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets and retail allowed
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	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...	Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir...	PA LFE registration and initial kitchen inspection required; non-TCS foods only; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	457,051	553,202	286,108

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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