

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Bedford County

Virginia · Bedford · FIPS 51019 · Population 79,761 · Crosodo Index #1611\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Va. Code §3.2-5130	Good	Tiered	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.

VIRGINIA: BEDFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1611\* · FIPS 51019 · Bedford

# Bedford County

Population 79,761 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Only non-TCS shelf-stable foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables subject to separate \$9,000 annual gross sales cap. All products must be labeled 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state statute.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No state-level permit required for cottage food operations. Bedford County zoning ordinances may require a home occupation permit. No Bedford County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Only non-TCS shelf-stable foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables subject to separate \$9,000 annual gross sales cap. All products must be labeled 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state statute.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific food handler certification required at state level for basic cottage food category.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No state-level permit required for cottage food operations. Bedford County zoning ordinances may require a home occupation permit. No Bedford County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales to consumers only. No resale, consignment, or sales to retail food establishments. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year annual gross sales.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified.

## Relevant county code

No Bedford County-specific cottage food code section found.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows non-TCS shelf-stable foods from home kitchens with no state permit or inspection required. Pickles and acidified vegetables have a \$9,000/year cap—one of the lowest in the US. No Bedford County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/bedford-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bedford County	Lynchburg city	Roanoke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only. No resale, consignment, or sales to retail food establishments. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at ...	Direct sales to consumers only. No resale or consignment. Customer pickup from home on appointment basis permitted. No drop-by public acces...	Virginia allows direct sales; Roanoke County home occupation rules require residential character be maintained and may restrict customer vi...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Only non-TCS shelf-stable foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables subject to separate \$...	Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Pickles and acidified vegetables subject to \$9,000 ann...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	79,761	79,166	96,653

## State context — Virginia cottage food law

Bedford County's rules sit on top of Virginia's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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### STATUTE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

### ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

### FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

### KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

### DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

### INDIRECT SALES

No — Products must be sold in person in the Commonwealth to an individual for his own consumption and not for resale or consignment. They cannot be offered for sale to be used in or offered for consumption in retail food establishments. Sales venues are limited to: private home, temporary event (no more than 14 consecutive days), or farmers market. Internet advertising is explicitly permitted but sales must remain in-person and in-state.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Virginia cottage food law report](#).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/virginia/>

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# Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/bedford-county-discuss>

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