

Food Regulations Resources

OSU Resources:

Several of the food regulations and food business questions you receive from clientele have been answered by Extension Field Specialist, Peggy Hall, and other Agricultural and Resources Law staff. There is a **Food Law Library** with Law Bulletins addressing many food regulation topics at: farmoffice.osu.edu/our-library/food-law

These topics include:

- [Ohio's Cottage Food Law](#)
- [Selling Foods at the Farm: When Do You Need a License?](#)
- [Vendor's Licenses and Sales Taxes at Ohio Farmers Market](#)
- [Legally Selling Your Baked Goods at a Farmer's Market](#)
- [Ohio Home Bakery License: What's Required?](#)
- [Labeling and Packaging Your Home-Based Food Products](#)
- [Sampling Home-Based Food Products: Keeping You Responsible for A Safe Food Product](#)

You can also find the [Selling Eggs in Ohio: Marketing and Regulations Fact Sheet](#)

Other Resources:

For some questions, a black and white answer is not easy to find in the materials above. In these cases, clientele should direct their questions to either the Ohio Department of Agriculture or their local health department (County or City jurisdiction). *The challenge often is knowing what type of question should go to which regulatory body.*

In general, if someone wants to make a food product that will be packaged and sold, then this is an Ohio Department of Agriculture question. If the question is related to selling meat, poultry and eggs, start with ODA. If someone wants to make food for immediate consumption, i.e. catering, food truck, etc., then these are Health Department questions.

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Start with their website: agri.ohio.gov They have made lots of improvements in the past couple of years with several FAQ pages for common food regulations questions. There are three divisions that will deal with most questions.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Division of Food Safety

Phone: (614) 728-6250 Email: foodsafety@agri.ohio.gov

Resources include:

- [Cottage Foods](#)
- [Home Bakery](#)
- [Produce Safety](#)
- [Farmers Market](#)
- [Starting A Food Business](#)
- [Maple Syrup](#)
- [Labeling Requirements](#)
- [Apple Cider and Juice](#)
- [Honey](#)
- [Farm Markets](#)
- [Small Egg Production](#)

Division of Meat Inspection

Phone: (614) 728-6260 Email: meat@agri.ohio.gov

Resources include:

- [Fully Inspected Operator License](#)
- [Custom Operator License](#)
- [Inspection Labels](#)

Division of Dairy

Phone: (614) 466-5550 Email: dairy@agri.ohio.gov

Resources include:

- [Dairy Processor Licensing Discussion Topics](#)

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is located at 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. The general phone number is 614-728-6201.

Local Health Departments

Every county has a local health district with county or city jurisdiction. Here is a listing of all 113 locations in Ohio: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/find-local-health-districts> Health Departments are responsible for food licenses including Mobile Retail Food Establishment (MFRE).

Personal note: If your clientele are looking for someone to talk with before reaching out to ODA or their local health department, I'm happy to talk with them. Before coming to OSU Extension, I worked in research and development for a food company and a significant part of my role was complying with food regulations. I enjoy these conversations and helping in this way.



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