



Connecticut State Department of Consumer Protection

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Cottage Food Operator (CFO)

Cottage foods are those prepared foods perceived to be low-risk for food-related injury or illness. As a low-risk product Cottage Foods can be prepared in a home environment without some of the controls used for a traditional ready-to-eat food such as those foods sold in a restaurant or grocery store. A listing of such foods is specified in the [Cottage Foods Operators Manual](#).

If the food you desire to produce as a CFO is not included in the list of acceptable foods in the [Operator's Manual](#) you may submit an application for review.

Before You Apply:

The following documentation must be attached and submitted with a completed application. Do not submit the application until you are able to provide these items:

- If you are on a well, please submit a recent water test. A [list of approved drinking water labs](#) are listed on the Department of Public Health's website, the lab should be able to arrange testing.
- A certificate of [food safety training](#) from a recognized provider.

Additional Information:

- [Cottage Foods Operator Manual](#)
- [Approved Water Testing Laboratories in Connecticut](#)
- [Approved Food Safety Courses](#)
- [New Food Application](#) - Food not currently listed as an acceptable cottage food

NEW - Application Information:

- "Paper" applications (pdf files that can be downloaded and printed out) and online applications are located [here](#)

Email for Questions and More Information:

dcp.foodandstandards@ct.gov