



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2023
To: All Local Health Departments
From: Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety
Subject: Freeze-Dried Candy

It has come to our attention that many local health jurisdictions have been receiving an influx of questions pertaining to freeze-dried candies. The act of freeze-drying candy or any other food is not covered by the Cottage Food Production Rule, 901:3-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

While the Cottage Food Production rules do allow candy, it is the intent of the rule that the cottage food producer actually make the candy and not just buy commercially manufactured candy to put through the freeze-drying process. Secondly, once candies are freeze-dried, they must be put into a reduced oxygen state by using oxygen scavengers or airtight pouches to keep the candies from reabsorbing the moisture from the air and essentially ruining the product. 901:3-20-04 (B) of the Ohio Administrative Code, specifically states that cottage foods may not be packaged using reduced oxygen packaging.

Hence, the reason why freeze-dried foods are not permitted to be made and sold as a cottage food in Ohio.

Please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety, if you have questions about this memorandum.