

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Baxter County

Arkansas · Mountain Home · FIPS 05005 · Population 43,007
· Crosodo Index #284*

STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Baxter County, Arkansas — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Arkansas cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Arkansas home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Arkansas label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ARKANSAS: BAXTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #284* · FIPS 05005 · Mountain Home

Baxter County

Population 43,007 · State baseline: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: producer name, address, phone (or ID number), date produced, ingredients, and disclosure statement that product is not inspected. No state registration, license, or inspection required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state permit required under the Food Freedom Act. However, local city or county business licenses may be required — check with local city/county clerk. A.C.A. §14-140-101 limits charges against farmers/producers selling items produced on their property but may not apply in all situations. State law (§20-57-506) expressly preempts county and municipal jurisdictions from prohibiting or regulating home food production.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Arkansas Department of Health may investigate complaints of adulterated or misbranded food and may inspect pop-up shop operations within third-party retail. No routine inspection of home kitchen.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: producer name, address, phone (or ID number), date produced, ingredients, and disclosure statement that product is not inspected. No state registration, license, or inspection required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

Standard potable water; no specific water testing requirement under the Food Freedom Act.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices strongly encouraged; no mandatory food handler certification required under the Food Freedom Act.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testing to confirm final pH at or below 4.6.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Arkansas Department of Health may investigate complaints of adulterated or misbranded food and may inspect pop-up shop operations within third-party retail. No routine inspection of home kitchen.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — No state permit required under the Food Freedom Act. However, local city or county business licenses may be required — check with local city/county clerk. A.C.A. §14-140-101 limits charges against farmers/producers selling items produced on their property but may not apply in all situations. State law (§20-57-506) expressly preempts county and municipal jurisdictions from prohibiting or regulating home food production.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE Yes

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer's agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers markets, county fairs, pop-up shops, from home/farm/ranch/office, or via third-party retail vendors. Cannot be sold to restaurants (not an approved source). Interstate sales allowed if seller complies with applicable federal laws.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No explicit limit under state law; an agent (employee, friend) may deliver on behalf of the producer.

Relevant county code

A.C.A. §20-57-506 (preemption of county and municipal regulation); A.C.A. §20-57-201 et seq. (Food Freedom Act definitions and requirements).

RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Food Freedom Act (Act 1040 of 2021) expressly preempts county and municipal governments from prohibiting or regulating home food production (§20-57-506). No state registration, inspection, or food handler certification required. Business license may be required locally — some cities (e.g., Little Rock) require a license for home cake sales. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline, as state preemption is explicit. Acidified foods require pH at or below 4.6. Foods cannot be sold to restaurants. ADH's July 2025 Homemade Food Guide confirms current rules.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baxtercounty.gov>

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/FTPDocument?type=PDF&file=1040&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R>

<https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Homemade-Food-Guide-2025-July.pdf>

<https://www.uaex.uada.edu/business-communities/local-foods/Arkansas%20Food%20Freedom%20Act%20Guidelines.pdf>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/baxter-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Baxter County	Fulton County	Izard County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer's agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers mar...	May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer's agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers mar...	Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	No — state law preempts local restrictions
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No — preempted by state law
RESTRICTIONS	Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: produ...	Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: produ...	Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin...	Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin...	Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated
POPULATION	41,801	12,183	13,748

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Retail and wholesale sales are allowed so long as the product is sold to an informed end consumer who can see the product label; sales to businesses for ingredient use or gift resale are not permitted.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Arkansas cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/arkansas.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/Document?type=pdf&act=1040&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/cottage-food>

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

Questions about Baxter County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/baxter-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Baxter County, Arkansas. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/baxter-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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