

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Benton County

Arkansas · Bentonville · FIPS 05007 · Population 286,528 ·  
Crosodo Index #633\*

## STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021); no registration, no inspection, no sales cap; home kitchen allowed; direct and indirect sales

| STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Freedom    | —                        | 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.

## How to start — 60-second path

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**No**

PETS

**No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies**

### 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: BENTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #633\* · FIPS 05007 · Bentonville

# Benton County

Population 286,528 · State baseline: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021); no registration, no inspection, no sales cap; home kitchen allowed; direct and indirect sales · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-TCS non-potentially-hazardous foods; no state license, permit, or inspection required; labeling required)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (AR does not preempt local zoning. Benton County and City of Bentonville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning department)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; complaint possible)

**Home kitchen rules**

|                            |                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Non-TCS non-potentially-hazardous foods; no state license, permit, or inspection required; labeling required |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                 |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies                                                          |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water at residence                                                                                         |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard handwashing                                                                                               |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions                                                                        |

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No routine inspection; complaint possible                                                                                                                                       |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — AR does not preempt local zoning. Benton County and City of Bentonville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning department |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                         |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail stores, online permitted |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified                                                                       |

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

AR Freedom-tier state — very permissive, no sales cap, no registration. Benton County is fast-growing NW Arkansas (Walmart HQ area, Bentonville). No county-specific overlay found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.bentoncountyar.gov>

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

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/benton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/benton-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Benton County                                                                                                | Washington County                                                                                                                              | Carroll County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                           | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies                                                    | Not specified; producers must operate from primary residence kitchen                                                                           | No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.                                                      |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                           | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                  | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail stores, online permitted                          | All sales channels allowed including interstate sales (unusual — Arkansas is one of few states allowing this). Direct, online, retail, whol... | May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer's agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers mar... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                       | No                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                       | No                                                                                                                                             | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Non-TCS non-potentially-hazardous foods; no state license, permit, or inspection required; labeling required | Arkansas Food Freedom Act (July 2021) — among the most permissive nationally. No registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler... | Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required; produ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions                                                                  | No refrigerated TCS finished products; acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing ( $\leq 4.6$ ) and batch-number labeling                   | Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin... |
| POPULATION                 | 286,528                                                                                                      | 247,331                                                                                                                                        | 28,362                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Benton 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

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)

### ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

### FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

### KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

### DIRECT SALES ONLY

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](https://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 Benton 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/benton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/benton-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

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

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/benton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/benton-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)