COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Monroe County

Arkansas · Clarendon · FIPS 05095 · Population 6,415 · Crosodo Index #634*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE
A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)	Freedom	—	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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?	STATE SALES CAP
Yes	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?	ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
No — state law preempts local restrictions	Yes
INSPECTION	PETS
No	Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing 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: MONROE COUNTY

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Monroe County

Population 6,415 · 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 operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempts local government restrictions on home food producers.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?
No

PETS ALLOWED?
Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?
No — state law preempts local restrictions (A.C.A. §20-57-201 explicitly preempts both state and local government from restricting home food producers; no county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?
No (No routine inspection required under Act 1040; complaint-based investigation possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempts local government restrictions on home food producers.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; residential water supply acceptable
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitary practices required; dedicated handwashing sink not mandated by statute
FOOD STORAGE	Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required under Act 1040; complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — state law preempts local restrictions — A.C.A. §20-57-201 explicitly preempts both state and local government from restricting home food producers; no county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No — preempted by state law

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No statutory limit specified

Relevant county code

N/A — state preemption applies; no applicable county code

RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Food Freedom Act (Act 1040 of 2021, A.C.A. §20-57-201) is one of the most permissive cottage food laws in the US. It expressly preempts local government restrictions. No county-specific regulations found or applicable. Allowed foods: nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous foods including baked goods, candy, condiments, dry goods, preserves, fermented foods, carbonated drinks. Prohibited: perishable baked goods, low-acid canned goods, nut butters, oils, meat jerkies. Acidified foods require pH testing. No sales cap, no registration, no inspection required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/county-health-units
https://www.monroecountyar.gov/
https://www.monroecountyar.gov/
https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/Document?type=pdf&act=1040&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R
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/monroe-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Monroe County	Arkansas County	Lee County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	**No**	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	**Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing 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	**Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted**	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	**No — state law preempts local restrictions**	Conditional	No — state law preempts local restrictions
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	**No — preempted by state law**	Varies	No — preempted by state law
RESTRICTIONS	**Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt…**	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	**Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated**	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	**6,787**	17,024	8,666

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Monroe 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)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
No

KITCHEN INSPECTION
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.

ANNUAL SALES CAP
—

FOOD HANDLER CERT
No

DIRECT SALES ONLY
No

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 Monroe 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/monroe-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 Monroe 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/monroe-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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