

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chaffee County

Colorado · Salida · FIPS 08015 · Population 20,780 · Crosodo Index #3082*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

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

Chaffee County, Colorado — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Possibly

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION

False

PETS

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Colorado 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
- ☐ Colorado home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Colorado label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

COLORADO: CHAFFEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3082* · FIPS 08015 · Salida

Chaffee County

Population 20,780 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Possibly (Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Chaffee County may require a home occupation approval for home-based businesses under county land use regulations. Salida and Buena Vista (larger communities) may require town business licenses. Contact Chaffee County Planning for zoning compliance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

False (Complaint-based only per state law; Chaffee County Public Health conducts inspections of retail food facilities but not cottage food operations unless complaint-based)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; private well users should verify water quality

HANDWASHING

Required per CO cottage food food safety training requirements; Chaffee County Public Health recommends StateFoodSafety.com online training

FOOD STORAGE

Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

False — Complaint-based only per state law; Chaffee County Public Health conducts inspections of retail food facilities but not cottage food operations unless complaint-based

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Possibly — Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Chaffee County may require a home occupation approval for home-based businesses under county land use regulations. Salida and Buena Vista (larger communities) may require town business licenses. Contact Chaffee County Planning for zoning compliance.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Possibly; City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista may require local business licenses for operations within their limits

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Sole proprietor or LLC of 2 or fewer owners; no additional employees per state law

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Foods Act); Chaffee County Land Use Regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Chaffee County Public Health website confirmed; Chaffee County handles retail food establishment inspections separately from cottage food. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Outdoor recreation destination (Arkansas River whitewater); active farmers market in Salida. Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type. StateFoodSafety.com training recommended by county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Environmental-Health-Retail-Food-Program>

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Planning>

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/cottage-foods>

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Environmental-Health-Retail-Food-Program>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Chaffee County	Gunnison County	Lake County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	False	False	False
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Restricted under Gunnison County Land Use Resolution home occupation standards; limited signage typically allowed	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores; home occupation rules may re...	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Possibly	True	Possibly
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Possibly; City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista may require local business licenses for operations within their limits	Possibly; City of Gunnison and Town of Crested Butte may require local business licenses for operations within their limits	Possibly; City of Leadville may require a city business license for operations within city limits; confirm with City of Leadville
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)
POPULATION	19,564	17,018	7,403

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

STATUTE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

INDIRECT SALES

No — Products cannot be resold; producers must sell directly to consumers but may designate a representative to sell on their behalf. Sales through restaurants or retail stores are not permitted, though the health department may allow direct sales at those locations on a case-by-case basis.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Colorado cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/colorado.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf

State dept cottage food page: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

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

Questions about Chaffee 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/colorado/chaffee-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 Chaffee County, Colorado. 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/colorado/chaffee-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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