

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Custer County

Colorado · Westcliffe · FIPS 08027 · Population 5,553 ·
Crosodo Index #3115*

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

Custer 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: CUSTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3115* · FIPS 08027 · Westcliffe

Custer County

Population 5,553 · 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. Custer County is a small rural mountain valley county. Producers should verify with Custer County whether any home occupation permit is required under county zoning. Westcliffe has an active small-town community.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

False (Complaint-based only per state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614))

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

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 (C.R.S. §25-4-1614)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Possibly — Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Custer County is a small rural mountain valley county. Producers should verify with Custer County whether any home occupation permit is required under county zoning. Westcliffe has an active small-town community.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Unlikely; small rural county; confirm with Custer County or Town of Westcliffe

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); Custer County Land Use Regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

No Custer County-specific cottage food ordinance found beyond state baseline. Small rural mountain valley county in the Wet Mountains; Westcliffe has Sangre de Cristo views. Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.custercountyco.com/public-health>

<https://www.custercountyco.com/planning>

<https://www.custercountyco.com>

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

<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/cottage-foods-checklist.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Custer County	Huerfano County	Saguache 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; standard CO cottage food applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	False	False	Upon-complaint only
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	No specific county restriction found; state disclaimer placard required at point of sale
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	Direct-to-consumer only; no wholesale; may sell from residence, farmers markets, online (CO only)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Possibly	Possibly	Likely; verify with Saguache County Planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Unlikely; small rural county; confirm with Custer County or Town of Westcliffe	Possibly; City of Walsenburg may require a city business license for operations within city limits; confirm with City of Walsenburg	Possibly; verify with Saguache County Clerk
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 sanitary storage; no additional county requirement found
POPULATION	4,885	6,896	6,454

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Custer 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

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

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.

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 Custer 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/custer-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 Custer 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/custer-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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