

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Elbert County

Colorado · Kiowa · FIPS 08039 · Population 29,382 · Crosodo Index #3094*

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

Elbert 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: ELBERT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3094* · FIPS 08039 · Kiowa

Elbert County

Population 29,382 · 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. Elbert County has grown as an exurban county southeast of Denver/Castle Rock; county zoning rules for home-based businesses apply. Producers should verify with Elbert County Planning whether a home occupation permit is needed, particularly in subdivided rural areas.)

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; rural county with many private wells

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. Elbert County has grown as an exurban county southeast of Denver/Castle Rock; county zoning rules for home-based businesses apply. Producers should verify with Elbert County Planning whether a home occupation permit is needed, particularly in subdivided rural areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Unlikely at county level; Town of Elizabeth may require a town business license for operations within town limits; confirm with respective municipality

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); Elbert County Land Use Regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

No Elbert County-specific cottage food ordinance found beyond state baseline. Growing exurban/rural county southeast of Denver metro area; many residential ranchettes. HOA restrictions may be a practical concern for cottage food producers in subdivisions (state law does not override HOA rules). Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.elbertcounty-co.gov/public-health>

<https://www.elbertcounty-co.gov/planning>

<https://www.elbertcounty-co.gov>

<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/elbert-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Elbert County	Lincoln County	Arapahoe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	No
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 state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	False	False	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	Conditional
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
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	Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery with...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Possibly	Possibly	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Unlikely at county level; Town of Elizabeth may require a town business license for operations within town limits; confirm with respective ...	Unlikely; rural county with minimal business licensing; confirm with Lincoln County or Town of Hugo	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorad...
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)	Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules
POPULATION	26,457	5,583	654,453

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Elbert 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 Elbert 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/elbert-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 Elbert 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/elbert-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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