

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Colorado · Golden · FIPS 08059 · Population 580,519 ·
Crosodo Index #2181*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
C.R.S. §25-4-1614	Great	Tiered (see notes)	HIGH	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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply

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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2181* · FIPS 08059 · Golden

Jefferson County

Population 580,519 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 (Home Occupations, amended to 2018): A Miscellaneous Permit must be obtained from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning. Conditions: conducted entirely within residential lot by inhabitants; up to 1 additional non-resident employee allowed; must be secondary to residential use; total area not to exceed 25% or 800 sq ft; no exterior storage; no offensive emissions; no exterior structure changes; incidental signage per Sign Section; up to 2 additional vehicles at one time. Exclusions: restaurants, body/mechanical repair, kennels, medical/dental facilities, tattoo shops, retail sales other than ancillary. Mail-order business allowed via Administrative Exception. Cottage food sales from home likely qualify as permitted home occupation with miscellaneous permit.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (County home occupation: possible site inspection before miscellaneous permit issued. State: complaint-based only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law

HANDWASHING

Implied by food safety training requirement

FOOD STORAGE

No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — County home occupation: possible site inspection before miscellaneous permit issued. State: complaint-based only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 (Home Occupations, amended to 2018): A Miscellaneous Permit must be obtained from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning. Conditions: conducted entirely within residential lot by inhabitants; up to 1 additional non-resident employee allowed; must be secondary to residential use; total area not to exceed 25% or 800 sq ft; no exterior storage; no offensive emissions; no exterior structure changes; incidental signage per Sign Section; up to 2 additional vehicles at one time. Exclusions: restaurants, body/mechanical repair, kennels, medical/dental facilities, tattoo shops, retail sales other than ancillary. Mail-order business allowed via Administrative Exception. Cottage food sales from home likely qualify as permitted home occupation with miscellaneous permit.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restaurant sales. Jefferson County home occupation rules limit traffic/customer congestion.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Jefferson County Zoning Section 21: up to 1 additional non-resident employee permitted beyond household residents

Relevant county code

Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 (Home Occupations). State: C.R.S. §25-4-1614.

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 PDF retrieved directly from jeffco.us (official county website). Confirms Miscellaneous Permit required for home occupations; specifies 25%/800 sq ft area limit; 1 non-resident employee allowed; no exterior storage; no restaurant exclusion applies to cottage food (which is food production, not restaurant service). Colorado state cottage food law applies statewide; no local preemption. Incorporated cities within Jefferson County (Arvada, Lakewood, Golden, etc.) have their own codes. Confidence high for unincorporated Jefferson County; city-level rules may vary.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jeffco.us>

<https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/2489/Section-21-Home-Occupations-PDF>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	Arapahoe County	Adams County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restau...	Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery with...	Incidental pickup at home permitted. Farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online/mail/home delivery within Colorado. \$10,000 per-pr...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire...	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorad...	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire...
FOOD STORAGE	No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage)	Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules	Standard home kitchen storage; no outdoor storage per home occupation rules
POPULATION	580,519	654,453	520,149

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Jefferson 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 Jefferson 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/jefferson-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 Jefferson 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/jefferson-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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