

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ellis County

Kansas · Hays · FIPS 20051 · Population 29,007 · Crosodo
Index #1853*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
K.S.A. §65-657	Great	—	MEDIUM	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

Ellis County, Kansas — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Kansas label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

KANSAS: ELLIS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1853* · FIPS 20051 · Hays

Ellis County

Population 29,007 · State baseline: K.S.A. §65-657 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)). No registration, inspection, or food handler certificate required at state level. Local zoning home occupation rules may apply — contact Ellis County zoning office or City of Hays planning department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level food permit required for non-TCS cottage foods. Local zoning ordinances for home occupations may require a permit. Contact Ellis County zoning or City of Hays planning department to verify requirements for home-based food businesses.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Kansas Department of Agriculture may investigate complaints; no routine home kitchen inspection for exempt cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)). No registration, inspection, or food handler certificate required at state level. Local zoning home occupation rules may apply — contact Ellis County zoning office or City of Hays planning department.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement under Kansas cottage food exemption.

HANDWASHING

Good sanitary practices required per Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; no refrigeration-required products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Kansas Department of Agriculture may investigate complaints; no routine home kitchen inspection for exempt cottage food operations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No state-level food permit required for non-TCS cottage foods. Local zoning ordinances for home occupations may require a permit. Contact Ellis County zoning or City of Hays planning department to verify requirements for home-based food businesses.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, events, roadside stands, online with delivery within Kansas. No wholesale or retail resale. Out-of-state shipping allowed with additional requirements.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Ellis County cottage food ordinance identified. State exemption (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)) applies statewide.

RESEARCH NOTES

Kansas cottage food exemption (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)) applies statewide. Ellis County includes Hays (Fort Hays State University), the largest city in northwest Kansas. No county-specific cottage food ordinance found; City of Hays may have home occupation permit requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.elliscounty.gov>

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-food-safety/cottage-food>

https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065_006_0057.html

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ellis County	Ness County	Osborne County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.	Not specified in state law	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, events, roadside stands, online with delivery within Kansas. No wholesale ...	Direct delivery to consumer permitted in-state	Direct delivery to consumer permitted in-state
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689...	No sales cap. No food handler cert required. Direct-to-consumer sales only; allowed at farm, farmers market, roadside stand, home, and even...	No sales cap. No food handler cert required. Direct-to-consumer sales only; allowed at farm, farmers market, roadside stand, home, and even...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; no refrigeration-required products.	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety
POPULATION	28,921	2,766	3,421

State context — Kansas cottage food law

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

STATUTE

K.S.A. §65-657

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Indirect sales to restaurants, retail stores, or wholesale are not allowed under the exemption; producers needing wholesale or retail channels must obtain a KDA food processing license.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065_006_0057.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-food-safety/cottage-food>

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

Questions about Ellis 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/kansas/ellis-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 Ellis County, Kansas. 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/kansas/ellis-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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