

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hardin County

Kentucky · Elizabethtown · FIPS 21093 · Population 111,005 ·
Crosodo Index #2700*

STATE BASELINE

KRS §217.136 (home-based processor); \$60,000 annual sales cap; registration required (\$50/year); no inspection; direct sales only; limited food categories

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	60000	MEDIUM	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

Hardin County, Kentucky — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

60000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Kentucky label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

KENTUCKY: HARDIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2700* · FIPS 21093 · Elizabethtown

Hardin County

Population 111,005 · State baseline: KRS §217.136 (home-based processor); \$60,000 annual sales cap; registration required (\$50/year); no inspection; direct sales only; limited food categories · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kentucky allows non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, granola, etc. from home kitchen. Registration required with KY Dept. for Public Health (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090). Limited to no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators. Commercial equipment prohibited.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Hardin County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Kentucky KRS §217.136 registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Hardin County (Elizabethtown area, near Fort Knox) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. Contact Hardin County Planning or Elizabethtown city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Kentucky registration requires application review but no routine kitchen inspection. Complaint-driven investigation by local health department possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Kentucky allows non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, granola, etc. from home kitchen. Registration required with KY Dept. for Public Health (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090). Limited to no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators. Commercial equipment prohibited.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under KY home-based processor law.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas), fermented foods, nut butters, oils, vinegars, pasta, juices, meat jerkies all prohibited under §217.136.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Kentucky registration requires application review but no routine kitchen inspection. Complaint-driven investigation by local health department possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Hardin County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Kentucky KRS §217.136 registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Hardin County (Elizabethtown area, near Fort Knox) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. Contact Hardin County Planning or Elizabethtown city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Kentucky allows direct sales only: from home, farmers markets, events. Online/in-state shipping status unclear. No wholesale, restaurants, or retail stores. \$60,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state employee limit; commercial equipment prohibited; max 2 non-commercial ranges/ovens, 3 refrigerators.

Relevant county code

KRS §217.136; 902 KAR 45:090

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (KY tier Okay). Kentucky is distinctive for prohibiting commercial kitchen equipment and limiting non-commercial equipment. Hardin County includes Elizabethtown and is adjacent to Fort Knox military installation. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hardincounty.gov>

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=44478>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hardin County	Bullitt County	Jefferson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	Not specified in state law.	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Kentucky allows direct sales only: from home, farmers markets, events. Online/in-state shipping status unclear. No wholesale, restaurants, ...	Direct sales only: in-person at home, events, farmers markets. No wholesale, no online shipping under KRS §217.136.	Direct-to-consumer only (farmers markets, events, home sales). No wholesale to restaurants or stores. No internet/mail order. \$60,000 annua...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Kentucky allows non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/ jellies, granola, etc. from home kitchen. Registration required with KY Dept. for Public...	Kentucky home-based processor: registration required (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090), \$60,000 annual sales cap. Allowed: non-TCS baked goods, ca...	Jefferson County is Louisville Metro — a consolidated city-county government. Home-based processor registration (\$50/year with KDPH, 902 KA...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas), fermented foods, nut butters, oils, vinegars, pasta, juices, meat je...	No more than 3 refrigerators allowed; standard food safety storage practices.	Standard food storage; max 3 refrigerators; no more than 2 non-commercial ranges/ovens
POPULATION	111,005	82,482	779,232

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
KRS §217.137	60000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Sales limited to direct-to-consumer only within Kentucky — from home (pickup or delivery), markets, roadside stands, community events, and online; shipping outside Kentucky is prohibited, and sales to restaurants or retail stores for resale are not allowed.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=44478>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

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

Questions about Hardin 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/kentucky/hardin-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 Hardin County, Kentucky. 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/kentucky/hardin-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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