

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Nelson County

Kentucky · Bardstown · FIPS 21179 · Population 48,706 ·
Crosodo Index #2711*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
KRS §217.137	Okay	60000	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

Nelson 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

Not specified in state law

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: NELSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2711* · FIPS 21179 · Bardstown

Nelson County

Population 48,706 · State baseline: KRS \$217.137 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual sales cap \$60,000. Registration required with KY Dept of Public Health (\$50/year). No food handler cert required. Inspection upon complaint only. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale or retail. Allowed: non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, fruit butters, maple/sorghum syrups, granola, dried goods, snack mixes, popcorn. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, salsas, nut butters, fermented foods, low-acid canned foods, meats. No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Nelson County has a zoning ordinance (revised November 2024; available from nelsoncountyky.gov). Home occupation provisions are typical for KY counties. Bardstown city limits have separate zoning. No specific cottage food overlay identified in the zoning ordinance title search.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual sales cap \$60,000. Registration required with KY Dept of Public Health (\$50/year). No food handler cert required. Inspection upon complaint only. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale or retail. Allowed: non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, fruit butters, maple/sorghum syrups, granola, dried goods, snack mixes, popcorn. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, salsas, nut butters, fermented foods, low-acid canned foods, meats. No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Nelson County has a zoning ordinance (revised November 2024; available from nelsoncountyky.gov). Home occupation provisions are typical for KY counties. Bardstown city limits have separate zoning. No specific cottage food overlay identified in the zoning ordinance title search.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only within KY; farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, festivals, community events, online orders (in-state); home pickup and delivery allowed. No wholesale, no mail delivery, no out-of-state.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Kentucky Okay-tier state. \$60,000 annual cap. Local ordinances not preempted by state law. State law confirmed via IJ.org and CHFS.ky.gov. No county-specific zoning records identified for home occupation / cottage food overlay. Defaulted to state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.nelsoncounty.gov>

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/kentucky/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Nelson County	Anderson County	Larue County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected.	Pets and children must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per KRS §217.136 and associated regulations.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only within KY; farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, festivals, community events, online orders (in-state); home pic...	Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based...	Direct-to-consumer only. Permitted venues: home (on-premises pickup), farmers markets, certified roadside stands, community events, fairs, ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	No	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual sales cap \$60,000. Registration required with KY Dept of Public Health (\$50/year). No food handler cert required. Inspection upon co...	Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CH...	Kentucky Home-Based Processor (HBP) law (KRS §217.136) allows production and direct sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a primary resid...
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage.	Non-TCS (non-potentially hazardous), shelf-stable foods only. No commercial refrigerators permitted beyond household limits (up to three st...
POPULATION	46,779	22,214	14,902

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

Nelson 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 Nelson 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/nelson-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 Nelson 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/nelson-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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