

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cole County

Missouri · — · FIPS 29051 · Population 76,890 · Crosodo
Index #1107*

STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

Cole County, Missouri — 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

No

PETS

Not specified. Good sanitary practices required.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Missouri label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

MISSOURI: COLE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1107* · FIPS 29051 · —

Cole County

Population 76,890 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Limited food scope under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes allowed. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment (HB 1697).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified. Good sanitary practices required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (State law (§196.298(3)(1)) expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food operations. However, local business licensing and zoning may still apply. Cole County (Jefferson City is the county seat and state capital) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Cole County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Note: county seat is blank in input data; Cole County seat is Jefferson City.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. No routine inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Limited food scope under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes allowed. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment (HB 1697).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified. Good sanitary practices required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — State law (§196.298(3)(1)) expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food operations. However, local business licensing and zoning may still apply. Cole County (Jefferson City is the county seat and state capital) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Cole County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Note: county seat is blank in input data; Cole County seat is Jefferson City.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home (residence) only under §196.298. Online in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment. No sales through events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, or roadside stands under this statute (though a separate individual-stands law may permit some sales in some counties).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298. No Cole County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cole County is the seat of Missouri's state government (Jefferson City). Missouri cottage food law (§196.298) has very limited food scope (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs only) but no sales cap. State law prohibits local health department regulation. A separate individual-stands law may provide additional options in some counties. County seat blank in source data but is Jefferson City. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.colecountymo.gov>

<https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cole County	Boone County	Callaway County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified. Good sanitary practices required.	No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home (residence) only under §196.298. Online in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment. No sales through events, farme...	Direct sales at home and in-state delivery. Farmers markets, online sales with in-state delivery allowed since 2022. No interstate sales.	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022), and at events/farmers markets. ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Limited food scope under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and...	Missouri Cottage Law is narrow: only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/ jellies, and dried herbs/mixes are permitted. All other foods r...	Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and he...
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.	Shelf-stable storage for baked goods, jams, jellies, dried herbs.	Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination. No state-mandated specific storage requirements for cottage food.
POPULATION	76,890	184,043	44,517

State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Under §196.298, sales must be directly to consumers from the producer's home. Events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, and roadside stands are not permitted under this law. Internet/online sales are allowed but only if both the producer and buyer are located in Missouri. Local health departments are explicitly prohibited from regulating the production of food at cottage food operations. A separate Missouri statute (individual stands law) allows sales at events and roadside stands in counties that have adopted it, permitting most other nonperishable foods.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Missouri cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/missouri.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

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

Questions about Cole 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/missouri/cole-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 Cole County, Missouri. 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/missouri/cole-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise