

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Missouri · Hillsboro · FIPS 29099 · Population 226,984 ·
Crosodo Index #653*

STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.

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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #653* · FIPS 29099 · Hillsboro

Jefferson County

Population 226,984 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs. Jefferson County requires a home occupation permit per Section 400.230 of the Jefferson County Code of Ordinances. The business must be secondary to residential use. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Jefferson County Code of Ordinances Section 400.230 requires a Home Occupation Permit. Requirements include: applicant must reside at the location; no more than one on-premises employee (besides residents); home occupation cannot exceed 1/3 of gross floor area; no tandem axle vehicle or outdoor storage. Application must be submitted to Jefferson County Planning Division. Note: Arnold, Herculaneum, and Festus (cities within Jefferson County) have their own rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs. Jefferson County requires a home occupation permit per Section 400.230 of the Jefferson County Code of Ordinances. The business must be secondary to residential use. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement for Missouri cottage food operations.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing per GMP; no specific statutory requirement for cottage food.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination. No state-mandated specific storage requirements for cottage food.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Jefferson County Code of Ordinances Section 400.230 requires a Home Occupation Permit. Requirements include: applicant must reside at the location; no more than one on-premises employee (besides residents); home occupation cannot exceed 1/3 of gross floor area; no tandem axle vehicle or outdoor storage. Application must be submitted to Jefferson County Planning Division. Note: Arnold, Herculaneum, and Festus (cities within Jefferson County) have their own rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022 amendment, HB 1697), and at events/farmers markets. Home pickup permitted. Delivery to customers allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Jefferson County Home Occupation Permit allows up to 1 non-resident on-premises employee. Missouri state law does not set an employee cap for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Jefferson County Code of Ordinances Section 400.230 (Home Occupation); Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence: Jefferson County home occupation permit application found directly on jeffcomo.gov with specific requirements from Section 400.230. Missouri state cottage food baseline confirmed. Note: CityRuleLookup references MO Rev. Stat. §196.277 for the \$50,000 cap, while the state baseline cites §196.298 — these may reflect different tracks of Missouri's cottage food framework. The primary statute §196.298 restricts to baked goods, jams/jellies, and dried herbs for in-home kitchen operations; a broader \$50,000 framework may apply at events/farmers markets under separate county-specific rules. Cities within Jefferson County (Arnold, Herculaneum, Festus) have separate rules.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jeffcomo.gov>

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

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

<https://www.jeffcomo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3070/Home-Occupation-Permit-Application-PDF>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/jefferson-county-mo>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	St. Louis County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.	No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.	No specific state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022 amendment, HB 1697), and at event...	Under state cottage food law, direct-to-consumer sales at the individual's home are the only authorized sale location under §196.298. Custo...	Direct-to-consumer at home and via online/in-state shipping. Farmers markets, events, restaurants, retail stores, roadside stands prohibite...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs. Jefferson...	State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's ...	Missouri primary statute (§196.298) allows only: nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination. No state-mandated specific storage requirements for cottage food.	State guidance recommends proper temperature, pest-free storage; no county-specific overlay.	Only baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs under §196.298. All other food types prohibited.
POPULATION	226,984	999,703	104,858

State context — Missouri cottage food law

Jefferson 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 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/missouri/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, 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/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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