

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Charles County

Missouri · Saint Charles · FIPS 29183 · Population 406,262 ·
Crosodo Index #2174*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

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: ST. CHARLES COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2174* · FIPS 29183 · Saint Charles

St. Charles County

Population 406,262 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes. No registration, permit, or inspection required at state level. Direct sales only (no farmers markets, restaurants, or retail stores under §196.298). Missouri prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit for home-based businesses from Planning and Zoning Division.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit from Planning and Zoning Division (201 N. Second St., Suite 420, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-7335; Planning@sccmo.org). Business Occupancy Permit also required from Building Division. If operation will prepare or serve food, must also contact Public Health Department (1650 Boone's Lick, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-1800). Note: Missouri state law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production itself, but local zoning/business licensing compliance is still required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection permitted at state or local level per §196.298(3)(1).)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Conditional — Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes. No registration, permit, or inspection required at state level. Direct sales only (no farmers markets, restaurants, or retail stores under §196.298). Missouri prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit for home-based businesses from Planning and Zoning Division.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-perishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, dried herbs only. No TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No inspection permitted at state or local level per §196.298(3)(1).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit from Planning and Zoning Division (201 N. Second St., Suite 420, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-7335; Planning@sccmo.org). Business Occupancy Permit also required from Building Division. If operation will prepare or serve food, must also contact Public Health Department (1650 Boone's Lick, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-1800). Note: Missouri state law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production itself, but local zoning/business licensing compliance is still required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only from home under §196.298 (no farmers markets, events, restaurants, or retail stores). Online/in-state shipping permitted per 2022 amendment (HB 1697). Missouri's separate individual-stands law may allow broader sales in some counties.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules apply.

Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 (state cottage food); St. Charles County Home Occupation Permit (Planning and Zoning).

RESEARCH NOTES

St. Charles County Home Occupation Permit requirement confirmed from official sccmo.org sources (Home Occupation Permit page and FAQ). Missouri cottage food law (§196.298) well-documented from state baseline — very limited food scope (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs) and direct sales only from home, but online/shipping added in 2022. Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food production per §196.298(3)(1). However, county still requires Home Occupation Permit and Business Occupancy Permit for home-based businesses. Confidence high: both state law and county permit requirement confirmed from .gov sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sccmo.org>

<https://www.sccmo.org/1611/Home-Occupation-Permit>

<https://sccmo.org/FAQ.aspx?QID=224>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	St. Charles County	St. Louis County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	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	Direct sales only from home under \$196.298 (no farmers markets, events, restaurants, or retail stores). Online/in-state shipping permitted ...	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	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pie...	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	Non-perishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, dried herbs only. No TCS foods.	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	406,262	999,703	104,858

State context — Missouri cottage food law

St. Charles 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

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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 St. Charles 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/st-charles-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 St. Charles 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/st-charles-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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