

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dickson County

Tennessee · Charlotte · FIPS 47043 · Population 54,563 ·
Crosodo Index #881*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022)

STATE TIER

Good

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

Dickson County, Tennessee — 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

No specific TN state or Dickson County rule.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Tennessee label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

TENNESSEE: DICKSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #881* · FIPS 47043 · Charlotte

Dickson County

Population 54,563 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (All non-TCS homemade foods from producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific TN state or Dickson County rule.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (TN Food Freedom Act preempts local food-related licensing. Dickson County is west of Nashville. Contact Dickson County government in Charlotte for home occupation zoning requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Only DOH may investigate foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — All non-TCS homemade foods from producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TN state or Dickson County rule.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement; recommended best practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Only DOH may investigate foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — TN Food Freedom Act preempts local food-related licensing. Dickson County is west of Nashville. Contact Dickson County government in Charlotte for home occupation zoning requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in TN statute.

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; no Dickson County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Dickson County is west of Nashville in Middle Tennessee. TN Food Freedom Act applies. No county-specific rules found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dicksoncounty.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dickson County	Montgomery County	Williamson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific TN state or Dickson County rule.	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act for cottage food operations.	Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.	Tennessee Food Freedom Act imposes no restrictions on sales channels. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and event sales all p...	All sales channels allowed under TN Food Freedom Act: farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online orders, and in-state...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	All non-TCS homemade foods from producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, r...	All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS.	No specific statutory food storage requirement under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.	Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products
POPULATION	54,563	222,305	248,897

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — The Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter 862, effective July 1, 2022) broadly exempts production and sale of non-TCS homemade food items from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws. Sales may be direct to consumer in person or remotely. Local government ordinances restricting homemade food sales are preempted. Note: Prior to the 2022 Food Freedom Act, the older domestic kitchen regulations (TDA Chapter 0080-4-11) required a permit, inspection, and food safety certification, and limited sales to 100 units/week; the Food Freedom Act supersedes these requirements for qualifying non-TCS homemade foods.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2021/title-53/chapter-8/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

Questions about Dickson 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/tennessee/dickson-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 Dickson County, Tennessee. 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/tennessee/dickson-county-discuss

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