

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Johnson County

Tennessee · Mountain City · FIPS 47091 · Population 18,506 ·  
Crosodo Index #1083\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

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

Johnson 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 pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.**

### 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: JOHNSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1083\* · FIPS 47091 · Mountain City

# Johnson County

Population 18,506 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or registration required. No sales cap. No labeling requirements beyond a disclosure statement.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Johnson County zoning regulations may require a home occupation permit for commercial activities at a residence. Operators should check with Johnson County offices in Mountain City.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (DOH may investigate only in connection with a foodborne illness investigation; no routine or complaint-only inspection authority for cottage food.)

**Home kitchen rules**

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or registration required. No sales cap. No labeling requirements beyond a disclosure statement. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| WATER SUPPLY               | No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| HANDWASHING                | No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate; standard hygiene practices recommended.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| FOOD STORAGE               | No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — DOH may investigate only in connection with a foodborne illness investigation; no routine or complaint-only inspection authority for cottage food.                                        |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Johnson County zoning regulations may require a home occupation permit for commercial activities at a residence. Operators should check with Johnson County offices in Mountain City. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                    |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                            |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state law.                                                                                                                            |

**Relevant county code**

Johnson County Zoning Code (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Johnson County, TN. Applied Tennessee Food Freedom Act state baseline (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022). Johnson County is in the far northeastern corner of TN (seat: Mountain City) bordering Virginia and North Carolina. County zoning for home occupation should be verified locally.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.johnsoncounty.gov>

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

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/112/pub/pc0862.pdf>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/johnson-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/johnson-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Johnson County                                                                                                                                 | Carter County                                                                                                                                  | Sullivan County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.                                                        | No specific TN state or Carter County rule.                                                                                                    | No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.                                                                                |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F... | No restrictions on sales channels. Direct, online, delivery, pickup, and indirect sales all permitted.                                         | Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods. No... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence... | Broad exemption for all non-TCS homemade foods produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap under... | Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, insp... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.                                                | Products must be non-TCS. No formal storage rules under TN Food Freedom Act.                                                                   | Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.                                                                                      |
| POPULATION                 | 17,982                                                                                                                                         | 56,315                                                                                                                                         | 158,722                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Johnson 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](https://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 Johnson 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/johnson-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/johnson-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Johnson County, Tennessee. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/johnson-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/johnson-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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