

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Putnam County

Tennessee · Cookeville · FIPS 47141 · Population 80,157 ·
Crosodo Index #2108*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, effective July 1, 2022; 2025 amendment expands to include certain TCS foods)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	MEDIUM	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

Putnam 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

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in state law. Good sanitary practices expected.

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: PUTNAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2108* · FIPS 47141 · Cookeville

Putnam County

Population 80,157 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, effective July 1, 2022; 2025 amendment expands to include certain TCS foods) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. As of 2025 amendment, most TCS foods also allowed but must be sold in-person or by an agent of the producer directly to the consumer. Cannot use commercial kitchen, restaurant, church kitchen, or community kitchen.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law. Good sanitary practices expected.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (The Tennessee Food Freedom Act removes state-level licensing and permit requirements. Local zoning ordinances may apply. Putnam County does not appear to have a specific cottage food ordinance overriding state law. Verify with Putnam County and the City of Cookeville for any home occupation permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Tennessee DOH or TDA may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness or food safety concern. No routine inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. As of 2025 amendment, most TCS foods also allowed but must be sold in-person or by an agent of the producer directly to the consumer. Cannot use commercial kitchen, restaurant, church kitchen, or community kitchen.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law. Good sanitary practices expected.
WATER SUPPLY	Residential potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Good sanitary practices recommended; not explicitly mandated in the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specified beyond general good food safety practices. TCS foods must be handled with appropriate temperature controls.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Tennessee DOH or TDA may investigate upon complaint of foodborne illness or food safety concern. No routine inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — The Tennessee Food Freedom Act removes state-level licensing and permit requirements. Local zoning ordinances may apply. Putnam County does not appear to have a specific cottage food ordinance overriding state law. Verify with Putnam County and the City of Cookeville for any home occupation permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Products may be sold at farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping, and from the producer's home. TCS foods must be sold in person or by an agent; no third-party online platforms for TCS foods. Sales within Tennessee only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee restriction specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee's Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) was significantly expanded in 2025 to include most TCS foods. The Act removes state-level licensing/permit/inspection requirements for cottage foods. No Putnam County-specific overrides found. State law preempts local interference with allowable sales channels. Local zoning may require home occupation compliance. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.putnamcounty.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/consumers/food-safety/tennessee-food-freedom-act.html>

<https://utia.tennessee.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/269/2023/10/PB1909.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Putnam County	Cumberland County	DeKalb County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law. Good sanitary practices expected.	No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.	No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Products may be sold at farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping, and from the producer's ho...	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F...	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. As of 2025 amendment, most TCS foods also allowed...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, ...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specified beyond general good food safety practices. TCS foods must be handled with appropriate temperature controls.	No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.	No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	80,157	61,552	20,209

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Putnam 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 Putnam 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/putnam-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 Putnam 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/putnam-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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