

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Rutherford County

Tennessee · Murfreesboro · FIPS 47149 · Population 343,727  
· Crosodo Index #929\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act); no registration, no inspection, no sales cap; home kitchen allowed; direct and indirect sales

| 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

Rutherford 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 state restriction; general sanitation applies**

### 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: RUTHERFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #929\* · FIPS 47149 · Murfreesboro

# Rutherford County

Population 343,727 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act); no registration, no inspection, no sales cap; home kitchen allowed; direct and indirect sales · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Tennessee does not preempt local zoning. Rutherford County and City of Murfreesboro may have home occupation permit requirements; operator should check with Rutherford County Planning or city zoning)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; complaint possible)

**Home kitchen rules**

|                            |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies                                                         |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water at residence                                                                                        |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard handwashing practices                                                                                    |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Sanitary storage at residence                                                                                     |

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No routine inspection; complaint possible                                                                                                                                                                  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Tennessee does not preempt local zoning. Rutherford County and City of Murfreesboro may have home occupation permit requirements; operator should check with Rutherford County Planning or city zoning |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified                                                                                   |

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

TN Food Freedom Act is permissive. No Rutherford County-specific cottage food restrictions found. Fast-growing county near Nashville; local municipalities may have home business zoning rules.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://rutherfordcountyttn.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/rutherford-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/rutherford-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Rutherford County                                                                                           | Williamson County                                                                                                                              | Davidson County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                          | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies                                                   | Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement                                                                                | Not specified under Food Freedom Act                                                                                                           |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                          | No                                                                                                                                             | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                 | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted             | All sales channels allowed under TN Food Freedom Act: farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online orders, and in-state... | Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer, online, delivery, events, far... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                      | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                      | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence | All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom... | State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Sanitary storage at residence                                                                               | Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products                                                                                          | No specific state requirements                                                                                                                 |
| POPULATION                 | 343,727                                                                                                     | 248,897                                                                                                                                        | 709,786                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Rutherford 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 Rutherford 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/rutherford-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/rutherford-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 Rutherford 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/rutherford-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/rutherford-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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