

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sullivan County

Tennessee · Blountville · FIPS 47163 · Population 158,722 ·
Crosodo Index #976*

STATE BASELINE

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

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

Sullivan 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 on pets in home for cottage food.

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: SULLIVAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #976* · FIPS 47163 · Blountville

Sullivan County

Population 158,722 · 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 (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except DOH foodborne illness investigations. No sales cap. No registration required. Sales permitted anywhere in Tennessee (and possibly beyond).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Sullivan County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. State law does not require any permit for cottage food.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (TDA may investigate for foodborne illness. No routine inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except DOH foodborne illness investigations. No sales cap. No registration required. Sales permitted anywhere in Tennessee (and possibly beyond).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.

HANDWASHING

No specific state requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — TDA may investigate for foodborne illness. No routine inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Sullivan County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. State law does not require any permit for cottage food.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods. No geographic restriction within Tennessee.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Sullivan County Zoning Ordinance; Tenn. Code §53-1-125

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) is one of the more permissive cottage food laws. No Sullivan County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sullivancounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sullivan County	Washington County	Hawkins County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.	Not prohibited by state statute.	No specific TN state or Hawkins County rule; standard food safety practices recommended.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods. No...	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, events, online, retail, and restaurants. Broad allowance under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.	No restrictions on sales channels under TN Food Freedom Act. Direct, online, delivery, pickup all permitted. Indirect sales (retail stores)...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, insp...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No licensing, permit, inspection, or labe...	Broad exemption for all non-TCS homemade foods produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap requi...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.	Non-TCS foods only; stored in food-safe containers.	Products must be non-TCS (no refrigeration required). No formal storage rules under TN Food Freedom Act.
POPULATION	158,722	133,282	57,107

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Sullivan 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 Sullivan 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/sullivan-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 Sullivan 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/sullivan-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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