

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bell County

Texas · Belton · FIPS 48027 · Population 372,821 · Crosodo
Index #836*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

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

Bell County, Texas — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

150000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Texas label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

TEXAS: BELL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #836* · FIPS 48027 · Belton

Bell County

Population 372,821 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Bell County municipalities (Killeen, Temple, Belton, Harker Heights, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Bell County municipalities (Killeen, Temple, Belton, Harker Heights, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales. Online and mail delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955; Bell County and municipal zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state cottage food law well-documented. Bell County (Killeen/Temple/Fort Hood area) follows state baseline. \$150,000 cap (2025). No state permit required. Local municipalities have own home occupation rules. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Bell County local ordinances not directly researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bellcountytexas.com>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bell County	McLennan County	Williamson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction.	Not specified in state statute	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales. Online and mail delivery permitted.	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed. Nonprofits may operate u...	Non-TCS: direct sales at home, farmers markets, online/mail/delivery, third-party platforms, roadside stands within \$150,000 annual cap. TC...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gr...	No license, registration, or inspection required from health department. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS...	No TCS foods without registration (SB 541, 2025). Non-TCS foods: no license, permit, or inspection required. Food handler certification req...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited foods include meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods	Standard home kitchen storage; products must not be adulterated
POPULATION	372,821	261,090	617,396

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

150000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Sales must be made directly to consumers or to a 'cottage food vendor' (a new category created by SB 541 in 2025 – a person with a contractual relationship who sells on behalf of the cottage food operation to consumers in-state). Cottage food products may not be sold as ingredients to a food service establishment. No retail grocery store or wholesale sales permitted under the pre-2025 framework; SB 541 (2025) adds the cottage food vendor intermediary option. Products must be delivered to consumer or vendor at point of sale or consumer-designated location.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

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

Questions about Bell 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/texas/bell-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 Bell County, Texas. 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/texas/bell-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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