

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cameron County

Texas · Brownsville · FIPS 48061 · Population 421,854 ·
Crosodo Index #883*

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

Cameron 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 in cottage food law.

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: CAMERON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #883* · FIPS 48061 · Brownsville

Cameron County

Population 421,854 · 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 including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream/frozen custard/popsicles, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Cameron County has unincorporated areas and incorporated cities (Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen area). Each municipality has its own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires cottage food operations to comply with local home-based business rules. Operators should verify with Cameron County and local city whether home occupation permit required. Brownsville: contact City of Brownsville Planning for home occupation requirements.)

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 including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream/frozen custard/popsicles, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
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 — Cameron County has unincorporated areas and incorporated cities (Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen area). Each municipality has its own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires cottage food operations to comply with local home-based business rules. Operators should verify with Cameron County and local city whether home occupation permit required. Brownsville: contact City of Brownsville Planning for home occupation requirements.
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 allowed. Online sales and mail delivery permitted. Products may be sold at direct sales only channels (not wholesale to distributors/retailers per primary statute). SB 541 (2025) added 'cottage food vendor' intermediary pathway.
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 (local home-based business compliance); Cameron County and municipal zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state cottage food law is well-documented. \$150,000 cap (raised from \$50,000 by SB 541, 2025). No permit or registration required. Cameron County is a border county with large population; municipalities (Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business ordinances. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Cameron County-specific local ordinances not directly researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cameroncountytexas.gov>

<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/cameron-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cameron County	Hidalgo County	Willacy County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales allowed. Online sales and mail delivery permitted. Products may be sold at direct sales only cha...	Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery by operator/household member within Texas. Since SB 541 (2025), wholesale to reg...	Direct-to-consumer sales anywhere in Texas including home pickup, farmers markets, events, and online (with personal delivery). Non-TCS foo...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gr...	Texas strong state preemption: local health departments cannot regulate cottage food production, require permits, fees, or inspections. Mus...	Texas cottage food law (SB 541, effective Sept 1 2025) allows sale of nearly all non-TCS foods plus TCS foods directly to consumers. Annual...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.	Standard food storage practices	Non-TCS foods unrestricted; TCS foods must be held at proper temperatures ($\leq 41^{\circ}\text{F}$ or $\geq 135^{\circ}\text{F}$).
POPULATION	421,854	873,167	20,308

State context — Texas cottage food law

Cameron 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 Cameron 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/cameron-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 Cameron 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/cameron-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise