

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Deaf Smith County

Texas · Hereford · FIPS 48117 · Population 18,495 · Crosodo  
Index #960\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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

Deaf Smith 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 pet restriction in state 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: DEAF SMITH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #960\* · FIPS 48117 · Hereford

# Deaf Smith County

Population 18,495 · 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 (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address privacy or for TCS food sellers). \$150,000 annual gross income cap. Almost all non-TCS foods allowed, plus TCS foods under proper temperature control. No local health department inspection authority over cottage food.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Deaf Smith County is largely unincorporated; counties in Texas have very limited zoning authority. No county-level home occupation ordinance found. Operators within incorporated cities (e.g., Hereford) may be subject to city home occupation rules. Unincorporated areas face minimal local restrictions.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

**Home kitchen rules****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address privacy or for TCS food sellers). \$150,000 annual gross income cap. Almost all non-TCS foods allowed, plus TCS foods under proper temperature control. No local health department inspection authority over cottage food.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

No

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

**WATER SUPPLY**

No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.

**HANDWASHING**

No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate.

**FOOD STORAGE**

Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.

**Inspection & permitting****INSPECTION REQUIRED**

No — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**

Varies — Deaf Smith County is largely unincorporated; counties in Texas have very limited zoning authority. No county-level home occupation ordinance found. Operators within incorporated cities (e.g., Hereford) may be subject to city home occupation rules. Unincorporated areas face minimal local restrictions.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage food vendor intermediary (SB 541, 2025). Wholesale of non-TCS foods to retail locations now allowed. No wholesale of TCS foods. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state statute.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**Relevant county code**

Deaf Smith County has no specific cottage food county code; state preemption limits local health authority.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Deaf Smith County. Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq., as amended by SB 541 effective Sept 1, 2025) applies statewide. Texas Panhandle county. Hereford is an agricultural hub. No county zoning code; state law governs unincorporated areas. Prohibited items include meat, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream products, CBD/THC foods, and raw milk.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/texas/deaf-smith-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/deaf-smith-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Deaf Smith County                                                                                                                              | Castro County                                                                                                                                  | Oldham County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.                                                                                         | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.                                                                                         | No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.                                                                      |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage fo... | All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage fo... | Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through n...  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | No                                                                                                                                              |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | No                                                                                                                                              |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address ... | Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address ... | Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.                           | Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.                           | All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.                                                   |
| POPULATION                 | 18,585                                                                                                                                         | 7,381                                                                                                                                          | 2,000                                                                                                                                           |

## State context — Texas cottage food law

Deaf Smith 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](https://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 Deaf Smith 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/deaf-smith-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/deaf-smith-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 Deaf Smith County, Texas. 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/texas/deaf-smith-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/deaf-smith-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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