

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ellis County

Texas · Waxahachie · FIPS 48139 · Population 195,509 ·
Crosodo Index #539*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

150000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No explicit pet restriction in Texas cottage food statute. Standard food safety practices apply.

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: ELLIS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #539* · FIPS 48139 · Waxahachie

Ellis County

Population 195,509 · 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 (§437.001 et seq., most recently amended by SB 541 in 2025) allows almost all non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$150,000 gross income (raised by SB 541, 2025). No licensing requirement. Health departments have no regulatory authority over cottage food operations (may only act to prevent immediate threat to human life/health). Ellis County is south of Dallas in the DFW metro area.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Texas cottage food statute. Standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Texas cottage food law provides no statewide home occupation preemption. Ellis County and municipalities (Waxahachie, Midlothian, Ennis, Corsicana) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Ellis County or relevant municipal planning/zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq., most recently amended by SB 541 in 2025) allows almost all non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$150,000 gross income (raised by SB 541, 2025). No licensing requirement. Health departments have no regulatory authority over cottage food operations (may only act to prevent immediate threat to human life/health). Ellis County is south of Dallas in the DFW metro area.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No explicit pet restriction in Texas cottage food statute. Standard food safety practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No water testing requirement under Texas cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices; no specific statutory handwashing requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage. Excluded: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspections.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Texas cottage food law provides no statewide home occupation preemption. Ellis County and municipalities (Waxahachie, Midlothian, Ennis, Corsicana) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Ellis County or relevant municipal planning/zoning office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Texas cottage food permits direct sales, home pickup, delivery, online sales, farmers markets, and events. Nonprofit organizations may now operate under cottage food framework (SB 541, 2025). \$150,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Texas cottage food statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; Ellis County zoning ordinances (contact for home occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state baseline applies. Ellis County (county seat: Waxahachie) is south of Dallas in the fast-growing DFW metro area. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the annual cap from previous level to \$150,000 and added nonprofits as eligible operators. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. Texas cottage food law is producer-friendly with limited health department authority.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.elliscounty.gov>

<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/ellis-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ellis County	Johnson County	Kaufman County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit pet restriction in Texas cottage food statute. Standard food safety practices apply.	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Texas cottage food permits direct sales, home pickup, delivery, online sales, farmers markets, and events. Nonprofit organizations may now ...	Online sales, in-state delivery, and direct sales from home, farmers markets, and roadside stands permitted. No interstate sales.	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through n...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq., most recently amended by SB 541 in 2025) allows almost all non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. No ...	Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. No wholesale. Health depart...	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 only. Standard safe storage. Excluded: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw mil...	Shelf-stable storage for permitted non-TCS foods.	All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.
POPULATION	195,509	182,690	149,773

State context — Texas cottage food law

Ellis 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 Ellis 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/ellis-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 Ellis 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/ellis-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