

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hardin County

Texas · Kountze · FIPS 48199 · Population 56,576 · Crosodo Index #1052*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (amended by SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000)

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

Hardin 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 TX state or Hardin County restriction on pets; 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: HARDIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1052* · FIPS 48199 · Kountze

Hardin County

Population 56,576 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (amended by SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (All non-TCS foods allowed including most baked goods, candy, jams, pickles, dried herbs, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Annual cap \$150,000 (as of 2025 SB 541). No inspection or registration. Health departments have no regulatory authority except to prevent immediate public health threat.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific TX state or Hardin County restriction on pets; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Hardin County is largely unincorporated rural area. Texas state law preempts local health regulation of cottage food operations. A local home occupation permit may be required under general county zoning for home-based business activity. Contact Hardin County government in Kountze.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health (DSHS or local health authority). No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — All non-TCS foods allowed including most baked goods, candy, jams, pickles, dried herbs, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Annual cap \$150,000 (as of 2025 SB 541). No inspection or registration. Health departments have no regulatory authority except to prevent immediate public health threat.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TX state or Hardin County restriction on pets; standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No formal requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	No formal state requirement; recommended best practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS and not require refrigeration (with exceptions). Proper labeling required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health (DSHS or local health authority). No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Hardin County is largely unincorporated rural area. Texas state law preempts local health regulation of cottage food operations. A local home occupation permit may be required under general county zoning for home-based business activity. Contact Hardin County government in Kountze.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales allowed. Online orders with in-person delivery or pickup permitted. The 2025 SB 541 amendment created the 'cottage food vendor' intermediary allowing third-party sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	TX statute does not specify a cap for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; no Hardin County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas is one of the most permissive cottage food states. The 2025 SB 541 raised the cap to \$150,000 and added nonprofits and cottage food vendors. Hardin County is a rural East Texas county. No county-specific cottage food overrides found. Prohibited items include meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, and low-acid canned goods.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hardincounty.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/hardin-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hardin County	Polk County	Orange County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific TX state or Hardin County restriction on pets; standard food safety practices apply.	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No specific statutory restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and some indirect sales allowed. Online orders with in-person delivery or pickup permitted. The 2025 SB 541 amendment created the 'c...	Sales allowed directly to consumers in Texas, online, at farmers markets, through cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541, 2025), and by...	All direct and indirect sales permitted within Texas framework: from home, online, at events, to retailers. No wholesale to distributors.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	All non-TCS foods allowed including most baked goods, candy, jams, pickles, dried herbs, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable prod...	Must produce in home kitchen. All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No meat/poultry/seafood, ice/ice ...	Texas cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required. Production from home kitchen. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS and not require refrigeration (with exceptions). Proper labeling required.	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage implied.	No specific statutory requirement.
POPULATION	56,576	50,536	84,761

State context — Texas cottage food law

Hardin 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 Hardin 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/hardin-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 Hardin 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/hardin-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