

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Rusk County

Texas · Henderson · FIPS 48401 · Population 52,755 ·
Crosodo Index #902*

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

Rusk 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 or Rusk County 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: RUSK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #902* · FIPS 48401 · Henderson

Rusk County

Population 52,755 · 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. Annual cap \$150,000. No inspection or registration required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific TX or Rusk County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Rusk County is an East Texas county (Henderson, near Kilgore oil fields). Texas state law preempts local health regulation. Contact Rusk County government or City of Henderson for home occupation/business license requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Only to prevent immediate and serious public health threat.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual cap \$150,000. No inspection or registration required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TX or Rusk County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No formal requirement.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products. Prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/frozen treats, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Only to prevent immediate and serious public health threat.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Rusk County is an East Texas county (Henderson, near Kilgore oil fields). Texas state law preempts local health regulation. Contact Rusk County government or City of Henderson for home occupation/business license requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales. Online orders permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	TX statute does not specify a cap.

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Rusk County is in the Piney Woods of East Texas. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State TX baseline applies.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ruskcounty.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/rusk-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Rusk County	Cherokee County	Nacogdoches County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific TX or Rusk County restriction.	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and some indirect sales. Online orders permitted.	Sales allowed directly to consumers in Texas, online, at farmers markets, through cottage food vendors (SB 541, 2025), and by mail/delivery...	Direct sales and wholesale to registered cottage food vendors allowed (SB 541, 2025). Sales at home, farmers markets, events, and retail st...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual cap \$150,000. No inspection or registration required.	Must produce in home kitchen. All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (as of SB 541, 2025). No meat/poultry/seafood, ic...	Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of operator's primary domestic residence. Local health departments have NO authority to i...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products. Prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/frozen treats, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage implied.	Non-TCS foods primarily; proper storage required
POPULATION	52,755	50,824	64,768

State context — Texas cottage food law

Rusk 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 Rusk 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/rusk-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 Rusk 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/rusk-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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