

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Starr County

Texas · Rio Grande City · FIPS 48427 · Population 65,716 ·
Crosodo Index #85*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (as amended by SB 541, 2025)

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

150000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices

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: STARR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #85* · FIPS 48427 · Rio Grande City

Starr County

Population 65,716 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (as amended by SB 541, 2025) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Local health departments have NO authority to inspect or require permits. Food handler certification required. Annual sales cap \$150,000.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Texas law expressly prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from banning cottage food production in homes. No local permit required for cottage food. Business registration with Texas Secretary of State and sales tax compliance may be required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS/local may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Local health departments have NO authority to inspect or require permits. Food handler certification required. Annual sales cap \$150,000.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing per food handler training
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage required; prohibited foods include meat, poultry, seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS/local may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Texas law expressly prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from banning cottage food production in homes. No local permit required for cottage food. Business registration with Texas Secretary of State and sales tax compliance may be required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed (SB 541 added cottage food vendors for wholesale). Sales at home, farmers markets, events, and retail stores permitted. No restriction on delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under TX cottage food law

Relevant county code

Texas law preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas SB 541 (2025) raised sales cap to \$150,000 and expanded allowable foods. Starr County is a border county with Rio Grande City as seat. Texas law expressly preempts local restrictions on cottage food home production. Health departments have no inspection authority. Food handler cert required. No county-specific restrictions found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.starrcounty.gov>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/retail-food-establishments/texas-cottage-food-production>

<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/starr-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Starr County	Hidalgo County	Brooks County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices	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	Yes	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed (SB 541 added cottage food vendors for wholesale). Sales at home, farmers markets, events, and retail sto...	Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery by operator/household member within Texas. Since SB 541 (2025), wholesale to reg...	All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage fo...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of the operator's primary domestic residence. Local health departments have NO authority ...	Texas strong state preemption: local health departments cannot regulate cottage food production, require permits, fees, or inspections. Mus...	Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage required; prohibited foods include meat, poultry, seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods	Standard food storage practices	Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.
POPULATION	65,716	873,167	7,059

State context — Texas cottage food law

Starr 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 Starr 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/starr-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 Starr 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/starr-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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