

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Tarrant County

Texas · Fort Worth · FIPS 48439 · Population 2,113,854 ·
Crosodo Index #986*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

150000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

State baseline applies

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: TARRANT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #986* · FIPS 48439 · Fort Worth

Tarrant County

Population 2,113,854 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, and others) may have their own home occupation permit requirements. Texas municipal zoning ordinances may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production (state preemption).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (No Tarrant County-level home occupation permit requirement for unincorporated areas. Cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, etc.) have their own home occupation and zoning requirements. Arlington requires health permits for food businesses generally but cottage food operations are exempt under state law.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority for CFPOs.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, and others) may have their own home occupation permit requirements. Texas municipal zoning ordinances may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production (state preemption).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

State baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY

State baseline applies

HANDWASHING

State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE

State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority for CFPOs.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies by city — No Tarrant County-level home occupation permit requirement for unincorporated areas. Cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, etc.) have their own home occupation and zoning requirements. Arlington requires health permits for food businesses generally but cottage food operations are exempt under state law.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery, and cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541, 2025). Annual gross income cap \$150,000. Starting Sept 2025, operators selling TCS foods must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — state preemption applies; Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Tarrant County follows state baseline. Texas SB 541 (2025) significantly expanded the program: raised cap to \$150,000, allowed TCS food sales with delivery, created cottage food vendor intermediary role, added nonprofits as eligible operators. Arlington (in Tarrant County) has its own health permit program but cottage food operations are explicitly exempt from food service establishment requirements under state law.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/public-health.html>

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com>

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

<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/tarrant-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Tarrant County	Dallas County	Denton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery, and cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541,...	State law allows direct and indirect sales, and online/delivery sales with no county-level restriction. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (S...	Broad direct-to-consumer sales permitted: in-person, online (with personal delivery by operator/household member within Texas), farmers mar...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated...	Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated...	State law preempts local health department regulation of cottage food production. No county/city can require permits, fees, or inspections ...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	Standard food storage practices; no additional county requirements
POPULATION	2,113,854	2,604,053	914,870

State context — Texas cottage food law

Tarrant 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 Tarrant 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/tarrant-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 Tarrant 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/tarrant-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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