

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Putnam County

West Virginia · Winfield · FIPS 54079 · Population 57,347 ·
Crosodo Index #1741*

STATE BASELINE

W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (enacted 2026); §19-35-6

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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

Putnam County, West Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during production.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under West Virginia 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
- ☐ West Virginia home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[West Virginia label one-pager →](#)

Local notes & questions →

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

WEST VIRGINIA: PUTNAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1741* · FIPS 54079 · Winfield

Putnam County

Population 57,347 · State baseline: W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (enacted 2026); §19-35-6

· MEDIUM

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

Yes (Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit. No sales cap. Must be produced in producer's domestic residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Putnam County zoning ordinance (Article 150/400 series, amended Oct. 2022 and May 2024) defines home occupation as incidental residential use that does not alter property exterior or neighborhood character. Cottage food operations meeting this definition may operate without a separate special permit in residential districts; operations with customer traffic or signage may require review. Contact Putnam County Planning & Infrastructure at putnamcountywv.gov.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness investigation by WV DHHR. WV Code §19-40-5 authorizes WVDA inspection for potentially hazardous cottage foods.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit. No sales cap. Must be produced in producer's domestic residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during production.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food; public or private water acceptable.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; no formal state inspection trigger.
FOOD STORAGE	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness investigation by WV DHHR. WV Code §19-40-5 authorizes WVDA inspection for potentially hazardous cottage foods.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Putnam County zoning ordinance (Article 150/400 series, amended Oct. 2022 and May 2024) defines home occupation as incidental residential use that does not alter property exterior or neighborhood character. Cottage food operations meeting this definition may operate without a separate special permit in residential districts; operations with customer traffic or signage may require review. Contact Putnam County Planning & Infrastructure at putnamcountywv.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed under home occupation definition if incidental. Delivery also allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	WV statute does not specify an employee cap for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Putnam County Zoning Ordinance Article 150 (Definitions), Article 400 (Single-Family Residential District), Article 1700.17D (Home Occupation) – amended 03/09/22

RESEARCH NOTES

WV enacted a new Cottage Foods Article 40 (§19-40-1 through §19-40-6) in 2026 via SB 44 (effective June 12, 2026). State law distinguishes nonpotentially hazardous (fully exempt) from potentially hazardous (WVDA permit required). Putnam County zoning confirms home occupation definition allows incidental home-based businesses without altering residential character. No county-specific cottage food override found. All sales must remain within WV. County URLs had no direct cottage food pages; state baseline applies.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://putnamcountywv.gov/planning-and-infrastructure/ordinances/>

<https://www.putnamcounty.gov>

<https://oeh.dhhr.wv.gov/foodprotection/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

<https://putnamcountywv.gov/planning-and-infrastructure/ordinances/>

<https://putnamcountywv.gov/planning-and-infrastructure/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2023/09/Complete-Zoning-Ordinance-Amended-October-2022.pdf>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/putnam-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Putnam County	Cabell County	Kanawha County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ...	No specific restriction under WV cottage food law.	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed under home occupation definition if incidenta...	Direct-to-consumer sales within West Virginia. No out-of-state sales. Farmers markets, events, home pickup permitted. Prohibited: meat, pou...	Direct sales within West Virginia. In-person and remote sales permitted; delivery by producer, agent, or third-party carrier allowed.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou...	West Virginia SB 44 (2026, effective June 12, 2026) creates new Article 40 (§19-40-1 through §19-40-6) as the operative cottage food law. T...	Nonpotentially hazardous foods: fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection per §19-40-6 and §19-35-6. Potentially hazardous co...
FOOD STORAGE	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods: no restriction. Potentially hazardous: require WV DOA permit and appropriate storage.	Appropriate storage for cottage food products.
POPULATION	57,347	93,965	179,895

State context — West Virginia cottage food law

Putnam County's rules sit on top of West Virginia's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (Article 40, Cottage Foods, enacted 2026); §19-35-6 (Nonpotentially hazardous foods at farmers markets)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Depends

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Cottage food must be sold directly to consumers. The new Article 40 (effective June 12, 2026) establishes that potentially hazardous cottage food vendors need a statewide permit but nonpotentially hazardous food sellers are fully exempt from permit and inspection. Local health departments may invoke cessation of production only if an imminent health hazard exists, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture. The input batch cited §16-7-1 (a general adulteration statute), but the operative cottage food framework is now Article 40 (§19-40-1 through §19-40-6), signed March 27, 2026.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **West Virginia cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/west-virginia.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/16-7/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://oeh.dhhr.wv.gov/foodprotection/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/west-virginia/>

Questions about Putnam 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/west-virginia/putnam-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 Putnam County, West Virginia. 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/west-virginia/putnam-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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