

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ritchie County

West Virginia · Harrisville · FIPS 54085 · Population 9,791 ·
Crosodo Index #596*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

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: RITCHIE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #596* · FIPS 54085 · Harrisville

Ritchie County

Population 9,791 · State baseline: W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (Cottage Foods, enacted 2026); §19-35-6 (Nonpotentially hazardous foods at farmers markets) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Ritchie County has no county-level zoning ordinance. State law governs: nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Department of Agriculture permit. All sales must remain within West Virginia. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Ritchie County has no county-level zoning ordinance and does not require a home occupation permit for cottage food operations. State registration/permit required only for potentially hazardous foods through WV Dept. of Agriculture.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection for nonpotentially hazardous foods. Potentially hazardous foods require Dept. of Agriculture permit; complaint-based follow-up.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Ritchie County has no county-level zoning ordinance. State law governs: nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Department of Agriculture permit. All sales must remain within West Virginia. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Nonpotentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods fully exempt. Potentially hazardous foods require WV Dept. of Agriculture permit.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection for nonpotentially hazardous foods. Potentially hazardous foods require Dept. of Agriculture permit; complaint-based follow-up.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Ritchie County has no county-level zoning ordinance and does not require a home occupation permit for cottage food operations. State registration/permit required only for potentially hazardous foods through WV Dept. of Agriculture.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only within West Virginia. Home pickup, farmers markets, roadside stands, and events permitted. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No county zoning ordinance. State law W. Va. Code §19-40-1 et seq. applies.

RESEARCH NOTES

Ritchie County is a small rural WV county (population ~9,791) with no comprehensive county zoning. WV enacted SB 44 (2026) creating §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 as the operative cottage food law. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation regulations identified. State baseline applies in full.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ritchiecountywv.org/>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ritchie County	Calhoun County	Doddridge County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ...	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only within West Virginia. Home pickup, farmers markets, roadside stands, and events permitted. No interstate sales.	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain...	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	Ritchie County has no county-level zoning ordinance. State law governs: nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licens...	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou...	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou...
FOOD STORAGE	Nonpotentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods fully exempt. Potentially hazardous foods require WV Dept. of Agriculture permit.	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.
POPULATION	9,791	7,396	8,530

State context — West Virginia cottage food law

Ritchie 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 Ritchie 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/ritchie-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 Ritchie 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/ritchie-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