

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Wood County

West Virginia · Parkersburg · FIPS 54107 · Population 84,272
· Crosodo Index #2485*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	MEDIUM	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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in the new 2026 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: WOOD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2485* · FIPS 54107 · Parkersburg

Wood County

Population 84,272 · State baseline: W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (Article 40, Cottage Foods, enacted 2026); §19-35-6 · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (West Virginia SB 44 (2026, eff. June 12, 2026): nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Department of Agriculture permit (valid statewide) but no separate food establishment permit. Excluded: meat, meat products, poultry, poultry products, seafood, Grade A dairy. All sales must be within West Virginia.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in the new 2026 law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Wood County and the City of Parkersburg may have home occupation ordinances. No Wood County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Wood County Commission or City of Parkersburg planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (For nonpotentially hazardous foods: fully exempt from inspection. For potentially hazardous cottage foods: WV Dept. of Agriculture may inspect. Upon complaint investigations may occur.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — West Virginia SB 44 (2026, eff. June 12, 2026): nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Department of Agriculture permit (valid statewide) but no separate food establishment permit. Excluded: meat, meat products, poultry, poultry products, seafood, Grade A dairy. All sales must be within West Virginia.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in the new 2026 law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement for cottage food in the new law.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement in the new law.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement in the new law.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — For nonpotentially hazardous foods: fully exempt from inspection. For potentially hazardous cottage foods: WV Dept. of Agriculture may inspect. Upon complaint investigations may occur.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Wood County and the City of Parkersburg may have home occupation ordinances. No Wood County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Wood County Commission or City of Parkersburg planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within West Virginia only. No sales outside WV. Products may not be served or used in commercial food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Wood County-specific cottage food code identified. W. Va. Code §19-40-1 et seq. governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Wood County (Parkersburg) follows the new West Virginia SB 44 (2026) cottage food law, effective June 12, 2026. The new law (W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6) significantly deregulated cottage food: nonpotentially hazardous foods are fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. The DHHR page URL from the input may reflect the old law; new operative citation is §19-40-1 et seq. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from state baseline research; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.woodcounty.gov>

<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/wood-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Wood County	Jackson County	Pleasants County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in the new 2026 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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within West Virginia only. No sales outside WV. Products may not be served or used in commercial food establishments.	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	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	West Virginia SB 44 (2026, eff. June 12, 2026): nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and ins...	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	No specific statutory requirement in the new law.	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	84,272	28,945	7,473

State context — West Virginia cottage food law

Wood 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 Wood 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/wood-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 Wood 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/wood-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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