

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Texas

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq..

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED
Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.	Great	B	64

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.

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Executive summary

This report covers the Texas cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 64 Texas counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

150000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

no

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

no

KITCHEN INSPECTION

no

DIRECT SALES ONLY

no

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

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.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas cottage food law has undergone major expansions: originally HB 970 (83rd Legislature, 2013) created the basic framework; SB 572 (86th Legislature, 2019) expanded allowed foods to include acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats, and raised the cap from \$50,000 to \$50,000 (clarified); and SB 541 (89th Legislature, 2025) raised the cap to \$150,000 (inflation-adjusted using CPI-U), added nonprofits as eligible operators, and created the 'cottage food vendor' intermediary. The current cap as of 2025 is \$150,000 gross annual income. Health departments do not have regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations; the DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. The excerpt is from the enrolled SB 541 (2025) bill text obtained from capitol.texas.gov.

Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 437 – Regulation of Certain Foods, Subchapter A – Cottage Food Production Operations

CITATION

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

ENACTED

2013

LAST AMENDED

2025

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

Allowed foods

Almost all non-TCS (non-temperature-controlled) foods are allowed, including baked goods, candy, jams and jellies, pickles, dried herbs and spices, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats, and any food that is not a time-and-temperature control for safety food. Nonprofits may also operate under the cottage food framework as of SB 541 (2025).

Prohibited foods

Prohibited foods include meat and meat products, poultry or poultry products, seafood and fish products, ice or ice products (shaved ice, ice cream, frozen custard, popsicles, gelato), low-acid canned goods, products containing CBD or THC, and raw milk and raw milk products.

Labeling requirements

Labels must include: the words 'MADE IN A HOME KITCHEN'; name of the product; list of ingredients and sub-ingredients in descending order of predominance by weight; net weight or volume; name, address, and phone number of the cottage food production operation; and any allergen information required by federal law. Labels may not make any claim about health benefits or contain any false or misleading information.

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

(2-b) "Cottage food production operation" means an individual, operating out of the individual's home, or a nonprofit organization that: (A) produces at the individual's home or the home of an individual who is a director or officer of the nonprofit organization, as applicable, any food other than: (i) meat, meat products, poultry, or poultry products; (ii) seafood, including seafood products, fish, fish products, shellfish, and shellfish products; (iii) ice or ice products, including shaved ice, ice cream, frozen custard, popsicles, and gelato; (iv) low-acid canned goods; (v) products containing cannabidiol or tetrahydrocannabinol; or (vi) raw milk and raw milk products; (B) has an annual gross income of \$150,000 or less from the sale of food described by Paragraph (A), as the department annually adjusts for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U); (C) sells the foods produced under Paragraph (A) directly to consumers or to a cottage food vendor; and (D) delivers products to the consumer or cottage food vendor at the point of sale or another location designated by the consumer or cottage food vendor.

Source: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/SB00541F.htm>

Official sources

Statute <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

State dept page <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

Extension service <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>

Forrager.com <https://forrager.com/law/texas/>

State dept of agriculture / health: **Texas Department of State Health Services**

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 64 Texas counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 3 · FIPS 48201 · Houston

Harris County

Population 4,726,177 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Harris County has no county-level zoning in its unincorporated areas, meaning no county zoning ordinance applies to home-based cottage food businesses. Deed restrictions and HOA covenants may restrict commercial activity on residential properties. The state law preempts local government from licensing or inspecting cottage food operations.
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 (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven inspection authority for CFPO.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Harris County has no county-level zoning in unincorporated areas; no home occupation permit required from the county. Cities within Harris County (including Houston) have their own zoning and may require a home occupation permit.
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 sales, indirect sales (to restaurants and retailers), and online/delivery sales. No county-level restriction. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M prohibits counties from imposing zoning restrictions that would effectively ban CFPOs in residential areas.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	state baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — unincorporated areas only; Tex. Local Gov't Code §231.181-186 (Subchapter M) limits county zoning of CFPOs

RESEARCH NOTES

Harris County is unique among large Texas counties: it has NO county-level zoning in unincorporated areas, meaning cottage food operators there face zero county land-use restrictions beyond state law. However, the City of Houston and other incorporated cities within Harris County do have zoning codes that could require home occupation permits. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the annual sales cap to \$150,000 and created a registry for operators selling TCS foods or selling to other vendors (effective Sept 1, 2025).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov>

<https://www.harriscountytexas.gov>

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

<https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/local-government-code/title-7/subtitle-b/chapter-231/subchapter-m/>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/harris-county-tx>

RANK 9 · FIPS 48113 · Dallas

Dallas County

Population 2,604,053 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated cities within the county have their own zoning codes that may require home occupation permits. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M limits county zoning restrictions on CFPOs.
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 (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — Dallas County has limited unincorporated area. Most residents are in incorporated cities (Dallas, Irving, Garland, etc.) that have their own home occupation permit requirements. Dallas County Planning & Development handles only unincorporated areas.
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, and online/delivery sales with no county-level restriction. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, CFPO selling TCS foods must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	state baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — minimal unincorporated area; Tex. Local Gov't Code §231.181-186 (Subchapter M) limits county zoning of CFPOs

RESEARCH NOTES

Dallas County has very little unincorporated area — the vast majority of residents are in incorporated cities. The dominant city, Dallas, has its own zoning code with home occupation standards. State law preempts county health departments from licensing or inspecting CFPOs. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the annual cap to \$150,000.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/plandev>

<https://www.dallascounty.org>

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

<https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/local-government-code/title-7/subtitle-b/chapter-231/subchapter-m/>

RANK 15 · FIPS 48439 · Fort Worth

Tarrant County

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

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>

RANK 16 · FIPS 48029 · San Antonio

Bexar County

Population 2,014,059 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Bexar County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food operations. The City of San Antonio and other incorporated cities within Bexar County may have their own home occupation permit requirements. State law preempts municipal zoning from prohibiting CFPOs.

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.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — No Bexar County-level home occupation permit requirement found for cottage food in unincorporated areas. The City of San Antonio has its own Development Services Department for home occupation permits. Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) in San Antonio does not regulate cottage food under state preemption.
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. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, TCS food sellers 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

Bexar County follows state baseline with no county-specific cottage food rules found. San Antonio (major city in county) has Metro Health which administers food establishment permits for restaurants and commercial kitchens, but cottage food operations are explicitly exempt from this jurisdiction under state law. Texas SB 541 (2025) expanded the program significantly.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bexar.org>

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

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

RANK 32 · FIPS 48453 · —

Travis County

Population 1,289,054 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Travis County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food. City of Austin requires no food permit for cottage food operations under state law, but operators should check with Austin's Development Services Department for any zoning ordinance impacts. Unincorporated Travis County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones, with a home occupation permit required.
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	conditional — Unincorporated Travis County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses; businesses must be secondary to residential use. Cities within Travis County (Austin, Pflugerville, Lakeway, Manor) have their own rules. Austin specifically states cottage food operators do not need a City of Austin food permit, but should verify zoning and other local ordinances with Austin's Development Services Department.
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. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, TCS food sellers must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	state baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — state preemption applies for cottage food; Travis County home occupation permit for unincorporated areas

RESEARCH NOTES

Travis County is dominated by the City of Austin. Austin confirms CFPOs do not need a City food permit under state preemption. However, Austin operators should check zoning and other ordinances with Austin's Development Services Department. Texas SB 541 (2025) significantly expanded the program: cap raised to \$150,000, TCS foods allowed with delivery, cottage food vendor intermediaries created.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.traviscountytx.gov>

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

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/travis-county-tx>

https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/Environmental/RevisedSite/startingfoodbus_2-29-16.pdf

RANK 42 · FIPS 48085 · McKinney

Collin County

Population 1,079,153 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Collin County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities within Collin County (McKinney, Plano, Frisco, Allen, etc.) have their own home occupation permit requirements. Texas municipal zoning ordinances may not prohibit CFPOs.
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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.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — No Collin County-level home occupation permit for cottage food in unincorporated areas. Cities within Collin County (McKinney, Plano, Frisco, Allen, Richardson, etc.) have their own home occupation and zoning requirements.
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. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, TCS food sellers 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

Collin County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the US (Dallas suburb). No county-specific cottage food rules found. State preemption bars local health departments from licensing or inspecting CFPOs. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the cap to \$150,000. Cities like Plano, Frisco, and McKinney may have home occupation ordinances that apply.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.collincountytx.gov>

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

RANK 61 · FIPS 48121 · Denton

Denton County

Population 914,870 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap raised to \$150,000) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — State law preempts local health department regulation of cottage food production. No county/city can require permits, fees, or inspections for cottage food. Must be produced in a private home kitchen. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (inflation-adjusted CPI-U from 2025). Food handler certification required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification from accredited program required under state law
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices; no additional county requirements

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Local health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Municipal zoning ordinances cannot prevent a cottage food operation in a home. However, city/county zoning rules on traffic, parking, noise, and nuisance still apply. Cities within Denton County (Denton, Lewisville, Flower Mound, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Contact the City of Denton Development Services or applicable city planning department. Denton County Planning may apply for unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Broad direct-to-consumer sales permitted: in-person, online (with personal delivery by operator/household member within Texas), farmers markets, roadside stands. Online sales allowed if operator personally delivers. No mail/carrier shipping. Since SB 541 (2025), wholesale to registered cottage food vendors also permitted for non-TCS foods.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; municipal zoning ordinances vary by city

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas is one of the strongest state preemption states for cottage food. Local health departments explicitly cannot require permits, fees, or inspections. SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000 and added cottage food vendor pathway. The [texascottagefoodlaw.com](https://www.texascottagefoodlaw.com) resource confirms no municipal zoning ordinance can prevent a CFO. Denton County is heavily suburban with many incorporated municipalities — check applicable city for home occupation permit (separate from food safety regulation). DSHS registration available optionally for label ID number in lieu of home address.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dentoncounty.gov/health>

<https://www.dentoncounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.dentoncounty.gov>

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/basics/>

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

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

RANK 64 · FIPS 48215 · Edinburg

Hidalgo County

Population 873,167 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas strong state preemption: local health departments cannot regulate cottage food production, require permits, fees, or inspections. Must be produced in private home kitchen. Food handler certification required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification from accredited program required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No local health department inspection authority. DSHS/local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No municipal zoning ordinance can prevent a cottage food operation. However, city/county nuisance, traffic, parking rules still apply. Cities within Hidalgo County (Edinburg, McAllen, Pharr, Mission, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities. Contact the applicable city's planning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery by operator/ household member within Texas. Since SB 541 (2025), wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permitted for non-TCS foods. No mail/ carrier shipping. \$150,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; municipal home occupation ordinances vary

RESEARCH NOTES

Hidalgo County follows Texas state baseline. Texas strong preemption prevents local health department regulation of cottage food. The county is largely urban (McAllen metro area); most residents fall under incorporated municipal jurisdiction. No Hidalgo County-specific cottage food ordinance found. The DSHS cottage food page and texascottagefoodlaw.com confirm the general framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hidalgocounty.us>

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

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/basics/>

RANK 65 · FIPS 48141 · El Paso

El Paso County

Population 863,832 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, inspection, or fee for cottage food production. Must be in private home kitchen. Food handler certification required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required from accredited program
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No local health department inspection authority. DSHS/local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — No municipal zoning can prevent cottage food operations. City of El Paso may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities separate from food safety regulation. Contact City of El Paso Development Services Department for home occupation requirements. County rules apply only in unincorporated areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery within Texas. SB 541 (2025): wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permitted for non-TCS foods. No mail/carrier shipping. \$150,000 annual cap.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME unknown

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; City of El Paso zoning code for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

El Paso County follows Texas state baseline. The City of El Paso contains the vast majority of the county population. Texas strong preemption prevents local health department regulation of cottage food. No El Paso County-specific cottage food ordinance found beyond state law.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.epcounty.com>

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

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/basics/>

RANK 73 · FIPS 48157 · Richmond

Fort Bend County

Population 832,607 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler certification required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification from accredited program required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No local health department inspection authority for cottage food.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No zoning ordinance can prevent cottage food operations. Cities within Fort Bend County (Sugar Land, Pearland, Missouri City, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities. Contact the applicable city's planning department. Fort Bend County rules apply only in unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery within Texas. SB 541 (2025): wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permitted for non-TCS foods. \$150,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; municipal home occupation ordinances vary

RESEARCH NOTES

Fort Bend County follows Texas state baseline. Strong preemption prevents local health department regulation. The county is rapidly growing suburban Houston area with multiple incorporated cities. No Fort Bend County-specific cottage food ordinance found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov>

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

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/basics/>

RANK 107 · FIPS 48339 · Conroe

Montgomery County

Population 629,989 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No TCS foods without registration (as of SB 541, 2025). Non-TCS foods: no license, permit, or inspection required. Food handler certification required. Local public health entities may NOT regulate production, require a permit, or charge fees for direct-to-consumer sales.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
HANDWASHING	Implied by food handler certification requirement
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage; products must not be adulterated

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations or require fees. SB 541 (2025) maintains this preemption.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Texas state law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) expressly preempts local public health entities from regulating cottage food production or requiring permits/fees. Montgomery County's unincorporated areas are generally permissive for home-based businesses. However, cities within Montgomery County (Conroe, The Woodlands area, etc.) may have home occupation zoning ordinances. Check with specific city for any home occupation permit requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Non-TCS foods: direct sales at home, farmers markets, online, mail/delivery, roadside stands. Third-party online platforms (Goldbelly, Amazon, etc.) allowed. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap. TCS foods: registration with DSHS required (effective Sept 1, 2025 per SB 541); may sell to cottage food vendors. Internet sales including across state lines permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not restricted by state cottage food law

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; SB 541 (2025) for TCS food registration

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas is a Great-tier state with strong preemption of local health department regulation. Montgomery County (unincorporated) has no authority to require permits or fees for cottage food production. SB 541 (2025) expanded the law to allow TCS foods with DSHS registration. \$150,000 annual cap. Food handler certification required. State law does not preempt general home occupation zoning rules from cities (only health-department-style regulations are preempted). Montgomery County is rapidly growing suburban/exurban county; most population in unincorporated areas. No Montgomery County-specific cottage food overlay rules found. Confidence medium because city-level rules for Conroe and other municipalities were not specifically retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://mctx.org>

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

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/>

RANK 108 · FIPS 48491 · Georgetown

Williamson County

Population 617,396 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No TCS foods without registration (SB 541, 2025). Non-TCS foods: no license, permit, or inspection required. Food handler certification required. Local public health entities may NOT regulate production or require permits/fees for direct-to-consumer sales.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
HANDWASHING	Implied by food handler certification requirement
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage; products must not be adulterated

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations or require fees
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Texas preempts local health department regulation of cottage food production. Williamson County unincorporated areas: no county-level cottage food permit required. Cities within county (Georgetown, Round Rock, Cedar Park, Leander) may have home occupation permit requirements in residential zones. Check with specific city for zoning rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Non-TCS: direct sales at home, farmers markets, online/mail/delivery, third-party platforms, roadside stands within \$150,000 annual cap. TCS foods require DSHS registration (SB 541, effective Sept 2025). Interstate online sales permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not restricted by state cottage food law

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; SB 541 (2025) for TCS registration

RESEARCH NOTES

Same Texas state baseline as Montgomery County TX. Williamson County is a fast-growing Austin suburb. State law preempts local health-department regulation of cottage food. No Williamson County-specific cottage food overlay found. Cities (Georgetown, Round Rock, Cedar Park, etc.) each maintain their own home occupation zoning provisions. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; city-level zoning details not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.wilcotx.gov>

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

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/>

RANK 166 · FIPS 48061 · Brownsville

Cameron County

Population 421,854 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream/frozen custard/popsicles, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Cameron County has unincorporated areas and incorporated cities (Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen area). Each municipality has its own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires cottage food operations to comply with local home-based business rules. Operators should verify with Cameron County and local city whether home occupation permit required. Brownsville: contact City of Brownsville Planning for home occupation requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales allowed. Online sales and mail delivery permitted. Products may be sold at direct sales only channels (not wholesale to distributors/retailers per primary statute). SB 541 (2025) added 'cottage food vendor' intermediary pathway.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955 (local home-based business compliance); Cameron County and municipal zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state cottage food law is well-documented. \$150,000 cap (raised from \$50,000 by SB 541, 2025). No permit or registration required. Cameron County is a border county with large population; municipalities (Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business ordinances. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Cameron County-specific local ordinances not directly researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cameroncountytexas.gov>

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

RANK 190 · FIPS 48039 · Angleton

Brazoria County

Population 374,600 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Brazoria County municipalities (Pearland, Alvin, Lake Jackson, Angleton, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business rules. Operators should verify with local municipality. Pearland and other cities may require home occupation permit.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales. Online and mail delivery permitted. SB 541 (2025) added 'cottage food vendor' intermediary pathway.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955 (local compliance); Brazoria County and municipal zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state cottage food law is well-documented. \$150,000 cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). Brazoria County is a fast-growing Houston-area county. Municipalities have their own home occupation rules. No state permit required. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Brazoria County-specific local ordinances not directly researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov>

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

RANK 193 · FIPS 48027 · Belton

Bell County

Population 372,821 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Bell County municipalities (Killeen, Temple, Belton, Harker Heights, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales. Online and mail delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955; Bell County and municipal zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state cottage food law well-documented. Bell County (Killeen/Temple/Fort Hood area) follows state baseline. \$150,000 cap (2025). No state permit required. Local municipalities have own home occupation rules. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Bell County local ordinances not directly researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bellcountytexas.com>

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

RANK 203 · FIPS 48355 · Corpus Christi

Nueces County

Population 353,245 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no license/registration required; no inspection; \$150,000 annual sales cap; direct and limited indirect sales · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No TCS foods; must label with required disclaimer; no state inspection or license required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction; general sanitation required
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices
FOOD STORAGE	Stored in sanitary conditions away from contaminants

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — State preemption does not override local zoning. Corpus Christi (primary city) and unincorporated Nueces County may require home occupation permit; operator should check with local planning department
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events; indirect sales to restaurants and retailers allowed up to \$150,000 annual cap
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas cottage food law is very permissive at state level. No county-specific overlay found for Nueces County. Local municipality (Corpus Christi) may have home occupation zoning rules not researched here.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.nuecesco.com>

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

RANK 204 · FIPS 48167 · Galveston

Galveston County

Population 350,801 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no license/registration required; no inspection; \$150,000 annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No TCS foods; required labeling disclaimer; no state license or inspection
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Sanitary storage conditions required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific requirement identified; City of Galveston and other municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer and indirect to retailers; \$150,000 annual cap
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Same TX state baseline applies. No Galveston County-specific cottage food overlay found. Barrier islands jurisdiction (City of Galveston) may have additional zoning restrictions not researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.galvestoncountytx.gov>

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

RANK 226 · FIPS 48303 · Lubbock

Lubbock County

Population 311,509 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no license/registration required; no inspection; \$150,000 annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-TCS foods only; labeling required; \$150,000 annual cap; no state license or inspection
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — City of Lubbock may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with City of Lubbock Planning Department
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted; retailers allowed; \$150,000 annual cap
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Same TX state baseline. No Lubbock County-specific cottage food overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.lubbock.tx.us>

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

Webb County

Population 267,282 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required from health department. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen' and producer's name/address. No state preemption of local zoning but health departments cannot regulate cottage food.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state; basic food safety practices recommended
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life; no routine inspection authority
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Webb County and City of Laredo may require a home occupation permit or general business license under local zoning. Texas cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. Producers in Laredo should check with the City of Laredo Development Services.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales allowed. May sell at farmers markets, online, home delivery. Third-party delivery platforms allowed. Wholesale to distributors not permitted. Nonprofits may also operate under cottage food framework (SB 541, 2025).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; Webb County/City of Laredo zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Webb County is heavily Hispanic/Latino border county with Laredo as county seat. Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq.) applies statewide; \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. Webb County may have a general business license requirement. Confidence medium — Texas state law confirmed but no specific Webb County .gov source found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.webbcountytexas.gov>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 266 · FIPS 48309 · Waco

McLennan County

Population 261,090 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required from health department. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen'. McLennan County/Waco may require home occupation permit under local zoning.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited foods include meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — McLennan County and City of Waco may require home occupation permit or business license. Check with Waco Development Services / City of Waco Zoning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed. Nonprofits may operate under cottage food framework (SB 541, 2025).

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; McLennan County/Waco zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

McLennan County TX (Waco) follows the Texas state baseline. \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. City of Waco may have local business license requirements. Confidence medium — Texas state law confirmed but no McLennan County .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.mclennan.tx.us>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 271 · FIPS 48245 · Beaumont

Jefferson County

Population 254,942 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required from health department. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen' and include producer's name/address. Jefferson County/Beaumont may require home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Jefferson County and City of Beaumont may require home occupation permit or business license. No county-specific information found. Check with City of Beaumont Planning Division.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County TX follows the Texas state baseline. \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). No county URLs provided in input and no county-specific cottage food ordinance found in research. Confidence medium — Texas state law confirmed but no specific Jefferson County .gov source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 277 · FIPS 48209 · San Marcos

Hays County

Population 245,351 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required from health department. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen'. Hays County and San Marcos may require home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Hays County and City of San Marcos may require home occupation permit or business license. Check with Hays County Development Services or San Marcos Planning Department.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; Hays County zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Hays County TX follows the Texas state baseline. \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). Fast-growing county in Austin metro area. No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium — Texas state law confirmed but no specific Hays County .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://hayscountytexas.com>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 289 · FIPS 48423 · Tyler

Smith County

Population 234,667 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen'. Smith County and Tyler may require home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Smith County and City of Tyler may require home occupation permit or business license. Check with Tyler Planning Department or Smith County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; Smith County/Tyler zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Smith County TX (Tyler) follows the Texas state baseline. \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.smith-county.com>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 290 · FIPS 48041 · Bryan

Brazos County

Population 234,548 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, registration, or inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen'. Brazos County and Bryan/College Station area may require home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Brazos County and Cities of Bryan and College Station may require home occupation permit or business license. Home to Texas A&M University. Check with City of Bryan or College Station Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; Brazos County/Bryan/College Station zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Brazos County TX (Bryan/College Station, Texas A&M University area) follows the Texas state baseline. \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.brazoscountytexas.gov>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 344 · FIPS 48139 · Waxahachie

Ellis County

Population 195,509 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq., most recently amended by SB 541 in 2025) allows almost all non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$150,000 gross income (raised by SB 541, 2025). No licensing requirement. Health departments have no regulatory authority over cottage food operations (may only act to prevent immediate threat to human life/health). Ellis County is south of Dallas in the DFW metro area.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction in Texas cottage food statute. Standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement under Texas cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no specific statutory handwashing requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage. Excluded: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Texas cottage food law provides no statewide home occupation preemption. Ellis County and municipalities (Waxahachie, Midlothian, Ennis, Corsicana) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Ellis County or relevant municipal planning/zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Texas cottage food permits direct sales, home pickup, delivery, online sales, farmers markets, and events. Nonprofit organizations may now operate under cottage food framework (SB 541, 2025). \$150,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Texas cottage food statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; Ellis County zoning ordinances (contact for home occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state baseline applies. Ellis County (county seat: Waxahachie) is south of Dallas in the fast-growing DFW metro area. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the annual cap from previous level to \$150,000 and added nonprofits as eligible operators. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. Texas cottage food law is producer-friendly with limited health department authority.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 361 · FIPS 48251 · Cleburne

Johnson County

Population 182,690 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. No wholesale. Health departments may not regulate cottage food operations; DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for permitted non-TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections. Health authority may act only upon immediate and serious threat to human life.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Texas state law does not require permits for cottage food; health departments have no authority to regulate. Johnson County (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation permit requirements under county zoning. County URLs were blank in input; no specific county-level ordinance verified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Online sales, in-state delivery, and direct sales from home, farmers markets, and roadside stands permitted. No interstate sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No state restriction specified for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas has strong cottage food protections with no registration or inspection requirements. \$150,000 sales cap effective 2025 per SB 541. Johnson County has no verified county-level cottage food rules beyond state baseline. County URLs were blank in input. Texas cottage food law broadly prohibits local health department regulation of cottage food operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 377 · FIPS 48187 · Seguin

Guadalupe County

Population 173,828 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. Health departments may not regulate cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for permitted non-TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections. Health authority may act only upon immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Texas state law prohibits health department regulation of cottage food. Guadalupe County unincorporated areas may have home occupation zoning requirements. County URLs were blank in input.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online sales, in-state delivery, and direct sales from home, farmers markets allowed. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Guadalupe County (near San Antonio, part of Texas Hill Country) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond Texas state baseline. County URLs were blank in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 389 · FIPS 48329 · Midland

Midland County

Population 169,393 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. Health departments have no regulatory authority over cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections. Health authority may act only upon immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Texas state law prohibits health department regulation. Midland County unincorporated areas may require home occupation permit under county zoning. County government website confirmed at co.midland.tx.us .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online, in-state delivery, and direct sales from home and farmers markets permitted. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; Midland County zoning ordinances.

RESEARCH NOTES

Midland County government website confirmed. Texas state cottage food law governs; no county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.midland.tx.us>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 400 · FIPS 48091 · New Braunfels

Comal County

Population 165,201 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. Health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections. Health authority may act only upon immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Texas state law prohibits health department regulation. Comal County unincorporated areas may require home occupation permit under county zoning. New Braunfels city has its own zoning rules. Comal County government website confirmed at comalcounty.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online, in-state delivery, and direct sales from home and farmers markets permitted. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; Comal County zoning ordinances.

RESEARCH NOTES

Comal County government website confirmed at comalcounty.gov. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond Texas state baseline. Comal County is rapidly growing (Hill Country, between San Antonio and Austin). Texas strong cottage food protections apply.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.comalcounty.gov>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 405 · FIPS 48135 · Odessa

Ector County

Population 162,300 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Health departments have no authority to inspect cottage food operations. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot add licensing or inspection requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Texas cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Ector County is largely unincorporated outside Odessa city limits. City of Odessa may have home occupation rules under its zoning ordinance, but Texas cottage food law preempts local health regulations. A business tax permit from the Texas Comptroller may be required for sales tax purposes.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through nonprofit organizations. No wholesale to retailers.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not restricted by state cottage food law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; City of Odessa zoning ordinance for home occupation rules

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. State baseline governs. Texas has strong preemption of local health rules for cottage food. No Ector County-specific cottage food code identified. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000. County URL verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.ector.tx.us>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 442 · FIPS 48367 · Weatherford

Parker County

Population 151,188 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Health departments have no authority to inspect cottage food operations. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot add licensing or inspection requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Texas cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Parker County is largely unincorporated outside Weatherford. City of Weatherford may have home occupation rules under its zoning ordinance, but Texas cottage food law preempts local health regulations. A business tax permit from the Texas Comptroller may be required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through nonprofit organizations. No wholesale to retailers.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not restricted by state cottage food law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; City of Weatherford zoning ordinance

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Texas has strong preemption of local health rules. No Parker County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 443 · FIPS 48257 · Kaufman

Kaufman County

Population 149,773 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Health departments have no authority to inspect cottage food operations. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot add licensing or inspection requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Texas cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Kaufman County is largely unincorporated outside the city of Kaufman. Local zoning ordinances may apply for home-based businesses but state cottage food law preempts local health regulations. A Texas Comptroller business tax permit may be required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through nonprofit organizations. No wholesale to retailers.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not restricted by state cottage food law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; local zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Texas has strong preemption of local health rules. No Kaufman County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 458 · FIPS 48441 · Abilene

Taylor County

Population 143,029 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual gross income capped at \$150,000 (raised to \$150,000 by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Health departments have no regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state law. Kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no specific testing mandate for cottage food producers.
HANDWASHING	Required per general food safety good practices; no state-mandated facility standard for cottage food operations.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Products stored in sealed, food-safe containers. Temperature-controlled storage not required for cottage food products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health; no routine inspections.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Taylor County (unincorporated areas) zoning code may have home occupation provisions. The City of Abilene has a separate home occupation ordinance. Texas state law provides strong preemption of local health regulations for cottage food, but local zoning/home occupation rules may still apply for residential business use.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted from home, at farmers markets, events, online, and third-party delivery. Texas allows indirect sales to restaurants and retail with restrictions. All sales must be within Texas.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Taylor County, TX zoning ordinance (unincorporated areas); City of Abilene home occupation regulations.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (TX) confirmed: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001, \$150,000 cap per SB 541 (2025). County govt URL provided (taylorcountytexas.org) but specific cottage food or home occupation provisions not independently retrieved. Abilene is the county seat and a mid-sized city with its own rules. Texas cottage food law strongly preempts local health authority; zoning home occupation may still apply. Confidence medium — county website confirmed but specific ordinance provisions not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.taylorcountytexas.org>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

<https://www.taylorcountytexas.org>

RANK 460 · FIPS 48381 · Canyon

Randall County

Population 141,489 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual gross income capped at \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required before operations. Health departments cannot routinely inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state law; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per general food safety good practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Stored in sealed, food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health authorities may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health; no routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Randall County (unincorporated areas) zoning may have home occupation provisions. Canyon (county seat) and the Amarillo metropolitan area portions in Randall County have their own ordinances. Texas state law strongly preempts local health regulations but local zoning may still apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, online, and third-party delivery within Texas. Indirect retail/restaurant sales allowed with restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Randall County, TX zoning ordinance (unincorporated areas).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (TX) confirmed: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001, \$150,000 cap (2025). Randall County govt URL provided but specific ordinance provisions not retrieved. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.randallcounty.gov>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

<https://www.randallcounty.gov>

RANK 468 · FIPS 48181 · Sherman

Grayson County

Population 137,008 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual gross income capped at \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required. Health departments cannot routinely inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state law; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per general food safety good practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; stored in sealed food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health authorities may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Grayson County (unincorporated areas) zoning may have home occupation provisions. Sherman (county seat) and Denison have their own ordinances. Texas state law strongly preempts local health regulations but local zoning may still apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, online, and third-party delivery within Texas. Indirect retail/restaurant sales allowed with restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Grayson County, TX zoning ordinance (unincorporated areas).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (TX) confirmed. No county-specific URLs in input. Grayson County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>
- <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 490 · FIPS 48485 · Wichita Falls

Wichita County

Population 129,584 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual gross income capped at \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required. Health departments cannot routinely inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state law; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per general food safety good practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; stored in sealed food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health authorities may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Wichita County (unincorporated areas) zoning may have home occupation provisions. City of Wichita Falls has its own ordinances. Texas state law strongly preempts local health regulations but local zoning may still apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, farmers markets, online, and third-party delivery within Texas. Indirect retail/restaurant sales allowed with restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

Wichita County, TX zoning ordinance (unincorporated areas).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (TX) confirmed. Wichita County includes Wichita Falls (mid-sized Texas city near Oklahoma border). No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 506 · FIPS 48183 · Longview

Gregg County

Population 124,245 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; \$150,000 annual sales cap (2025); no registration; no inspection; direct and limited indirect sales; state preempts local health inspections · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas state law allows cottage food production from a home kitchen. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations. Gregg County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific Texas state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices; no mandatory training or certification for Texas cottage food.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards. TCS foods not permitted under cottage food framework.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Texas law explicitly prohibits health departments from inspecting cottage food operations except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Gregg County unincorporated areas and the city of Longview may have separate home occupation permit requirements under local zoning. No specific county-level cottage food permit details found. Texas state law §559.955 requires cottage food operators to comply with home-based business rules. Contact Gregg County or Longview city planning for zoning specifics.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Texas allows direct sales and limited indirect sales (not through wholesale distributors or retail chains). Online sales and delivery allowed. Products may not be sold at wholesale. Nonprofits may also operate under cottage food framework as of SB 541 (2025).

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific state limit; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §559.955

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (TX tier Great). Texas cottage food law (as amended by SB 541, 2025) raised cap to \$150,000. No county-specific URLs provided in input and no county-specific overlay found. Gregg County is the seat of Longview, TX (pop ~81K), which has its own city zoning. Confidence medium: state law well-documented; county/city zoning overlay not researched due to no input URLs.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 520 · FIPS 48451 · San Angelo

Tom Green County

Population 119,276 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; \$150,000 annual sales cap (2025); no registration; no inspection; direct and limited indirect sales; state preempts local health inspections · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Texas state law allows cottage food production from a home kitchen. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations. Tom Green County follows state baseline.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific Texas state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required per state food safety standards.

HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory training or certification for Texas cottage food.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Texas law explicitly prohibits health departments from inspecting cottage food operations except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Tom Green County and the city of San Angelo may have home occupation permit requirements under local zoning. No specific county-level cottage food permit details found. Texas state law requires compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Texas allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales and delivery allowed. Products may not be sold at wholesale. \$150,000 annual cap as of SB 541 (2025).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §559.955

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (TX tier Great). Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) raised cap to \$150,000. Tom Green County includes San Angelo (pop ~100K). No county-specific URLs provided in input. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 526 · FIPS 48375 · Amarillo

Potter County

Population 117,905 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; \$150,000 annual sales cap (2025); no registration; no inspection; direct and limited indirect sales; state preempts local health inspections · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas state law allows cottage food production from a home kitchen. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations. Potter County follows state baseline. Note: Amarillo is split between Potter County and Randall County.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific Texas state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory training or certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Texas law prohibits health departments from inspecting cottage food operations except to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Potter County unincorporated areas and Amarillo city may have home occupation permit requirements. Texas state law requires compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955. No specific county-level details found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Texas allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online/delivery allowed. \$150,000 annual cap.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific state limit; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (TX tier Great). Potter County seat is Amarillo (shared with Randall County). No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 546 · FIPS 48397 · Rockwall

Rockwall County

Population 110,631 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; \$150,000 annual sales cap (2025); no registration; no inspection; direct and limited indirect sales; state preempts local health inspections · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Texas state law allows cottage food from home kitchen. Health departments cannot inspect. Rockwall County follows state baseline. Rockwall is a fast-growing Dallas suburb.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific Texas state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required per state food safety standards.

HANDWASHING Standard food safety practices; no mandatory training or certification.

FOOD STORAGE Shelf-stable non-TCS products stored per food safety standards.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Texas law prohibits health departments from inspecting cottage food operations except for immediate/serious threats to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Rockwall County and city of Rockwall may have home occupation permit requirements under local zoning. Texas state law requires compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955. No specific county-level details found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Texas allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online/delivery allowed. \$150,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (TX tier Great). Rockwall County is the smallest Texas county by area but one of the fastest-growing; it is part of Dallas metro. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 592 · FIPS 48231 · Greenville

Hunt County

Population 101,596 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas allows almost all non-TCS foods. Annual sales cap of \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required. Health departments have no regulatory authority over cottage food operations except to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. Nonprofits may also operate under cottage food framework as of 2025.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices recommended but not legally mandated.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/ice products (shaved ice, ice cream, frozen custard, popsicles, gelato), low-acid canned goods, products containing CBD or THC, raw milk and raw milk products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments cannot inspect except to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Hunt County municipalities (Greenville, Commerce, Wolfe City, etc.) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Texas state law does not preempt local zoning, but health departments cannot regulate cottage food. No specific Hunt County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Most direct-to-consumer and indirect sales channels permitted. \$150,000 annual cap. Online and mail-order sales permitted. Sales to retailers, restaurants, and via third-party vendors allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Hunt County code section identified. State law governs: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Hunt County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Texas's 2025 SB 541 raised the cap to \$150,000. Hunt County is in the Dallas-Fort Worth exurban area east of Greenville. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 611 · FIPS 48021 · Bastrop

Bastrop County

Population 98,435 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq.) is highly permissive: no registration, no permit, no inspection required. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat/poultry/seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Texas cottage food law; health departments have no inspection authority.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Texas cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; must be labeled and stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Bastrop County is semi-rural and growing rapidly (Austin metro area). No county-wide home occupation permit for cottage food identified; individual municipalities within the county may have requirements. Operators should check Bastrop city or county planning rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed. Online sales, home delivery, farmers markets, events, and retail stores all permitted. Internet sales expressly allowed per Texas law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in Texas cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Bastrop County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Bastrop County (Austin exurb) has provided county govt URL. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond Texas state baseline. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000 and added nonprofits as eligible operators. Bastrop County is one of the fastest growing counties in Texas; local business license requirements may apply within city limits. DSHS has no authority to inspect cottage food operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bastropcounty.gov>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 636 · FIPS 48291 · Liberty

Liberty County

Population 93,523 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law: no registration, no permit, no inspection required. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Allowed: all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat/poultry/seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under Texas cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; must be labeled.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may act only to prevent immediate serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Liberty County is rural southeast Texas (Houston metro periphery). No county-wide home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Local municipalities may have requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed. Online, home delivery, farmers markets, events, retail stores all permitted. Internet sales expressly allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified.

Relevant county code

No Liberty County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Liberty County-specific cottage food rules found. Liberty County is in southeast Texas near Houston. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000 and added nonprofits as eligible operators.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 641 · FIPS 48037 · New Boston

Bowie County

Population 92,747 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law: no registration, no permit, no inspection required. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Allowed: all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat/poultry/seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; must be labeled.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may act only to prevent immediate serious threat to human life.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Bowie County (New Boston, Texarkana metro area) is rural northeast Texas. No county-wide cottage food home occupation permit identified. Local municipalities may have requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales allowed. Online, home delivery, farmers markets, events, retail stores all permitted. Internet sales expressly allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No limit specified.

Relevant county code

No Bowie County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Bowie County-specific cottage food rules found. Bowie County is in the Texarkana metro area (bordering Arkansas). Texas state law is highly permissive; no local government inspection authority. SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 649 · FIPS 48469 · Victoria

Victoria County

Population 91,209 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law: no registration, no permit, no inspection required. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Allowed: all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat/poultry/seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; must be labeled.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may act only to prevent immediate serious threat.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Victoria County (Victoria, South Texas coastal bend area) is a mid-size county. No county-wide cottage food home occupation permit identified. City of Victoria may have home occupation requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed. Online, home delivery, farmers markets, events, retail stores all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified.

Relevant county code

No Victoria County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Victoria County-specific cottage food rules found. Victoria County is in the South Texas coastal bend region. Texas is among the most permissive states; no local government inspection authority over cottage food operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 663 · FIPS 48005 · Lufkin

Angelina County

Population 86,608 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Texas cottage food is highly permissive. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Production from home kitchen permitted. Annual gross income cap: \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. No labeling of home address required (physical or P.O. Box acceptable). Health departments have no regulatory authority over cottage food operations.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific statutory restriction.

WATER SUPPLY No specific statutory requirement.

HANDWASHING No specific statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED no — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspection authority.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Texas state law §559.955 (Home Business) may apply at local level. Angelina County and the City of Lufkin may have home occupation ordinances. No Angelina County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Angelina County or City of Lufkin planning offices.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, online, via mail, at farmers markets, and through indirect channels (to retailers who sell directly to consumers) are all permitted under Texas cottage food law. No wholesale to distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Angelina County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Angelina County follows Texas's highly permissive cottage food framework. No registration, inspection, or training required. The \$150,000 cap was established by SB 541 (89th Legislature, 2025). Angelina County has no county-level health department oversight for cottage food. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official DSHS and legislature sources; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>
- <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 670 · FIPS 48361 · Orange

Orange County

Population 84,761 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required. Production from home kitchen. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Health departments have no regulatory authority.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific statutory restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Orange County and the City of Orange may have home occupation requirements. No Orange County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Orange County or City of Orange.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All direct and indirect sales permitted within Texas framework: from home, online, at events, to retailers. No wholesale to distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Orange County-specific cottage food code identified. Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Orange County, TX follows Texas's highly permissive cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 684 · FIPS 48099 · Gatesville

Coryell County

Population 82,927 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required. Production from home kitchen. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. No regulatory authority for health departments.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific statutory restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Coryell County and the City of Gatesville may have home occupation requirements. No Coryell County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Note: significant military population from Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood) in adjacent Bell County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All direct and indirect sales permitted within Texas framework.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Coryell County-specific cottage food code identified. Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Coryell County follows Texas cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 686 · FIPS 48213 · Athens

Henderson County

Population 82,627 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required. Home kitchen production. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific statutory restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Henderson County and the City of Athens may have home occupation requirements. No Henderson County-specific cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All direct and indirect sales permitted within Texas framework.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Henderson County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Henderson County follows Texas cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 720 · FIPS 48471 · Huntsville

Walker County

Population 77,182 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required. Strong state preemption clause limits local interference.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — State law does not require a home occupation permit. The home-based business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Walker County and the City of Huntsville may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Walker County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No registration, permit, or inspection required. May sell directly and indirectly (limited wholesale). Online sales and delivery permitted. SB 541 (2025) added nonprofit operators and created 'cottage food vendor' intermediary.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955 (home-based business rules). No Walker County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq.) is one of the most permissive. \$150,000 annual cap (2025, SB 541). No permit or inspection. Local governments cannot restrict under the state preemption unless through home-based business rules (§559.955). No Walker County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 764 · FIPS 48497 · Decatur

Wise County

Population 70,062 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No food handler cert required. No state registration required. Annual sales cap \$150,000. No TCS foods. Indirect sales allowed at limited venues (farmers markets, roadside stands, flea markets). No wholesale to distributors.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Wise County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Decatur has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct delivery and third-party sales at designated venues permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas Great-tier state with \$150,000 cap. No county-specific sources available. Wise County is a rural/exurban county in North Texas. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 772 · FIPS 48203 · Marshall

Harrison County

Population 69,098 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual sales cap \$150,000. No food handler cert required. No state registration required. No inspection required. Non-TCS foods only. Limited indirect sales at designated venues (farmers markets, roadside stands, flea markets).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Harrison County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Marshall has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales at designated venues; delivery by producer permitted in-state
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas Great-tier state with \$150,000 cap. Harrison County is in East Texas near Louisiana border. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 774 · FIPS 48409 · Sinton

San Patricio County

Population 68,942 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual sales cap \$150,000. No food handler cert required. No state registration required. No inspection required. Non-TCS foods only. Limited indirect sales at designated venues.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. San Patricio County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Sinton has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales at designated venues; delivery permitted in-state
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas Great-tier state with \$150,000 cap. San Patricio County is in South Texas Coastal Bend region. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 809 · 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**

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. County URLs all blank in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 827 · FIPS 48347 · Nacogdoches

Nacogdoches County

Population 64,768 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (as amended by SB 541, 2025) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of 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 primarily; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments have no regulatory authority to inspect. DSHS/local may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT no — Texas law expressly prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from banning cottage food production in homes. No local permit required. Nacogdoches County is a deep east Texas county with a university (SFA). Business registration 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 sales and wholesale to registered cottage food vendors allowed (SB 541, 2025). Sales at home, farmers markets, events, and retail stores permitted.

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

Nacogdoches County is home to Stephen F. Austin State University. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000 and added wholesale channel through registered cottage food vendors. No county-specific restrictions apply due to TX state preemption. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 844 · FIPS 48221 · Granbury

Hood County

Population 62,459 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (as amended by SB 541, 2025) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of 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
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing per food handler training
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods primarily; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Health departments have no regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — Texas law expressly prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from banning cottage food in homes. Hood County is a growing exurban county southwest of Fort Worth near Granbury. No local permit required for cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	no

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and wholesale to registered cottage food vendors allowed. No restrictions on delivery, farmers markets, or retail.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit

Relevant county code

Texas law preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food

RESEARCH NOTES

Hood County is a growing exurban county in the DFW metro area. Texas state law preempts local restrictions. No county-specific overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 868 · FIPS 48467 · Canton

Van Zandt County

Population 60,053 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law is highly permissive. No registration, no license, no inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. No local health department inspection authority.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated products required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health; no routine or complaint inspection authority.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Van Zandt County is largely unincorporated; county zoning is limited in Texas. City of Canton may have home occupation rules within city limits. Operators in unincorporated areas generally face minimal local restrictions.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE yes

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Almost all channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a 'cottage food vendor' intermediary (SB 541, 2025). No wholesale to restaurants or distributors.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Van Zandt County has no specific cottage food county code; state preemption limits local health authority.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Van Zandt County. Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) applies with one of the highest annual caps (\$150,000 per SB 541, 2025) and broadest food lists in the nation. Van Zandt County is a rural East Texas county; unincorporated areas have minimal local restrictions. Prohibited items include meat, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream products, CBD/THC foods, and raw milk.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 892 · FIPS 48001 · Palestine

Anderson County

Population 58,077 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law is highly permissive. No registration, no license, no inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. No local health department inspection authority.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated products required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Anderson County is largely unincorporated; county zoning is limited in Texas. City of Palestine may have home occupation rules within city limits. Operators in unincorporated areas generally face minimal local restrictions.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Almost all channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a 'cottage food vendor' intermediary (SB 541, 2025). No wholesale to restaurants or distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Anderson County has no specific cottage food county code; state preemption limits local health authority.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Anderson County. Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) applies. Anderson County is in East Texas; Palestine is a mid-sized East Texas town. Prohibited items include meat, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream products, CBD/THC foods, and raw milk.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 897 · FIPS 48323 · Eagle Pass

Maverick County

Population 57,806 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law is highly permissive. No registration, no license, no inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. No local health department inspection authority.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated products required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Maverick County is largely unincorporated; county zoning is limited in Texas. City of Eagle Pass may have home occupation rules within city limits. Operators in unincorporated areas generally face minimal local restrictions.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE yes

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Almost all channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a 'cottage food vendor' intermediary (SB 541, 2025). No wholesale to restaurants or distributors.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Maverick County has no specific cottage food county code; state preemption limits local health authority.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Maverick County. Texas cottage food law applies. Maverick County is on the Mexico border (Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras area) — note that Texas cottage food products cannot be sold across state or international lines. Prohibited items: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream products, CBD/THC foods, raw milk.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 900 · FIPS 48473 · Hempstead

Waller County

Population 57,463 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Texas cottage food law is highly permissive. No registration, no license, no inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. No local health department inspection authority.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated products required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Waller County is partially suburban (near Houston metro); county zoning is limited in Texas. City of Hempstead and other incorporated areas may have home occupation rules. Operators in unincorporated areas generally face minimal local restrictions.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Almost all channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a 'cottage food vendor' intermediary (SB 541, 2025). No wholesale to restaurants or distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Waller County has no specific cottage food county code; state preemption limits local health authority.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Waller County. Texas cottage food law applies. Waller County is northwest of Houston in the rapidly growing Houston metro area (Prairie View A&M University is in this county). The proximity to Houston means some suburban incorporated areas may have home occupation rules. Prohibited items: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream products, CBD/THC foods, raw milk.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 907 · FIPS 48199 · Kountze

Hardin County

Population 56,576 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (amended by SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — All non-TCS foods allowed including most baked goods, candy, jams, pickles, dried herbs, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Annual cap \$150,000 (as of 2025 SB 541). No inspection or registration. Health departments have no regulatory authority except to prevent immediate public health threat.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TX state or Hardin County restriction on pets; standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No formal requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	No formal state requirement; recommended best practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS and not require refrigeration (with exceptions). Proper labeling required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health (DSHS or local health authority). No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Hardin County is largely unincorporated rural area. Texas state law preempts local health regulation of cottage food operations. A local home occupation permit may be required under general county zoning for home-based business activity. Contact Hardin County government in Kountze.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales allowed. Online orders with in-person delivery or pickup permitted. The 2025 SB 541 amendment created the 'cottage food vendor' intermediary allowing third-party sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	TX statute does not specify a cap for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; no Hardin County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas is one of the most permissive cottage food states. The 2025 SB 541 raised the cap to \$150,000 and added nonprofits and cottage food vendors. Hardin County is a rural East Texas county. No county-specific cottage food overrides found. Prohibited items include meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, and low-acid canned goods.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

RANK 944 · FIPS 48349 · Corsicana

Navarro County

Population 52,834 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (amended by SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual cap \$150,000. No inspection or registration required. Health departments have no regulatory authority except to prevent immediate public health threat.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TX or Navarro County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No formal requirement.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products. Prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/frozen treats, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Only to prevent immediate and serious public health threat.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Navarro County includes Corsicana. Texas state law preempts local health regulation. Contact Navarro County government or City of Corsicana for any general home occupation or business license requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales. Online orders permitted. 2025 SB 541 created 'cottage food vendor' intermediary.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	TX statute does not specify a cap.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; no Navarro County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Navarro County is in northeast Texas south of Dallas-Fort Worth. Known for Corsicana fruitcake (Eilenberger's Bakery history). No county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline applies.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 947 · FIPS 48265 · Kerrville

Kerr County

Population 52,810 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (amended by SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual cap \$150,000. No inspection or registration required. Health departments have no regulatory authority except to prevent immediate public health threat.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TX or Kerr County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No formal requirement.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products. Prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/frozen treats, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Only to prevent immediate and serious public health threat.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Kerr County (Kerrville, Hill Country Texas) is a popular retirement and tourism destination. Texas state law preempts local health regulation. Contact Kerr County government or City of Kerrville for home occupation/business license requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales. Online orders permitted. 2025 SB 541 created 'cottage food vendor' intermediary.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	TX statute does not specify a cap.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; no Kerr County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Kerr County is in the Texas Hill Country (Kerrville), a popular destination for retirees and tourists. Active farmers market and arts community. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State TX baseline applies.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 948 · FIPS 48401 · Henderson

Rusk County

Population 52,755 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (amended by SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual cap \$150,000. No inspection or registration required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TX or Rusk County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No formal requirement.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products. Prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice/frozen treats, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC, raw milk.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Only to prevent immediate and serious public health threat.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Rusk County is an East Texas county (Henderson, near Kilgore oil fields). Texas state law preempts local health regulation. Contact Rusk County government or City of Henderson for home occupation/business license requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales. Online orders permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	TX statute does not specify a cap.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; no Rusk County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Rusk County is in the Piney Woods of East Texas. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State TX baseline applies.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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