

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Benton County

Arkansas · Bentonville · FIPS 05007 · Population 286,528 ·
Crosodo Index #633*

STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021); no registration, no inspection, no sales cap; home kitchen allowed; direct and indirect sales

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

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

ARKANSAS: BENTON COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS non-potentially-hazardous foods; no state license, permit, or inspection required; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (AR does not preempt local zoning. Benton County and City of Bentonville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning department)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS non-potentially-hazardous foods; no state license, permit, or inspection required; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; complaint possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — AR does not preempt local zoning. Benton County and City of Bentonville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local 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; farmers markets, events, retail stores, online permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

AR Freedom-tier state — very permissive, no sales cap, no registration. Benton County is fast-growing NW Arkansas (Walmart HQ area, Bentonville). No county-specific overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bentoncountyar.gov>

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/cottage-food>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/benton-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Benton County	Washington County	Carroll County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	Not specified; producers must operate from primary residence kitchen	No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail stores, online permitted	All sales channels allowed including interstate sales (unusual — Arkansas is one of few states allowing this). Direct, online, retail, whol...	May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer's agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers mar...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	No	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS non-potentially-hazardous foods; no state license, permit, or inspection required; labeling required	Arkansas Food Freedom Act (July 2021) — among the most permissive nationally. No registration, no inspection, no sales cap, no food handler...	Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required; produ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	No refrigerated TCS finished products; acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing (≤ 4.6) and batch-number labeling	Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin...
POPULATION	286,528	247,331	28,362

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Benton County’s rules sit on top of Arkansas’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

<p>STATUTE A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION No</p> <p>INDIRECT SALES Yes — Retail and wholesale sales are allowed so long as the product is sold to an informed end consumer who can see the product label; sales to businesses for ingredient use or gift resale are not permitted.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP —</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT No</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Arkansas cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Acts/Document?type=pdf&act=1040&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/cottage-food>

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

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Benton County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/benton-county-discuss>
