

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Craighead County

Arkansas · Jonesboro · FIPS 05031 · Population 111,038 ·
Crosodo Index #47*

STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Food Freedom Act, Act 1040 of 2021); no sales cap; no registration; no inspection; direct and indirect sales; state law expressly preempts local restrictions

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: CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

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Craighead County

Population 111,038 · State baseline: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Food Freedom Act, Act 1040 of 2021); no sales cap; no registration; no inspection; direct and indirect sales; state law expressly preempts local restrictions · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Arkansas Food Freedom Act expressly preempts state AND local government restrictions on home food producers. Must operate from primary residence kitchen. Note: county_seat in input is blank but is Jonesboro.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restrictions beyond standard sanitation under Freedom Act.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201) expressly preempts all local government restrictions including permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Arkansas Food Freedom Act prohibits all local restrictions including inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Arkansas Food Freedom Act expressly preempts state AND local government restrictions on home food producers. Must operate from primary residence kitchen. Note: county_seat in input is blank but is Jonesboro.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restrictions beyond standard sanitation under Freedom Act.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no specific county overlay.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no formal requirement under Freedom Act.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products; acidified foods require pH testing (pH ≤4.6) and batch records.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Arkansas Food Freedom Act prohibits all local restrictions including inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201) expressly preempts all local government restrictions including permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Arkansas allows direct and indirect sales including online, retail/wholesale, and interstate sales. No channel restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under Arkansas Food Freedom Act.

Relevant county code

A.C.A. §20-57-201 et seq. (preempts local rules)

RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Food Freedom Act (Act 1040, 2021) preempts all local restrictions. State tier is 'Freedom.' Craighead County includes Jonesboro (pop ~80K), home of Arkansas State University. County seat was blank in input; it is Jonesboro. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Craighead County	Greene County	Jackson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restrictions beyond standard sanitation under Freedom Act.	Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply	Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Arkansas allows direct and indirect sales including online, retail/wholesale, and interstate sales. No channel restrictions.	Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted	Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	No — state law preempts local restrictions	No — state law preempts local restrictions
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	No — preempted by state law	No — preempted by state law
RESTRICTIONS	Arkansas Food Freedom Act expressly preempts state AND local government restrictions on home food producers. Must operate from primary resi...	Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt...	Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products; acidified foods require pH testing (pH ≤4.6) and batch records.	Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated	Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated
POPULATION	111,038	45,954	16,784

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Craighead 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 Craighead County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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