

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Arkansas · Pine Bluff · FIPS 05069 · Population 66,934 ·
Crosodo Index #555*

STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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.

ARKANSAS: JEFFERSON COUNTY

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Jefferson County

Population 66,934 · State baseline: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct and indirect sales allowed. Broad food allowances. No out-of-state sales.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county govt URL provided. Jefferson County includes Pine Bluff, a regional center. Unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Pine Bluff has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct and indirect sales allowed. Broad food allowances. No out-of-state sales.
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. Jefferson County includes Pine Bluff, a regional center. Unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Pine Bluff 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 indirect sales allowed; delivery permitted in-state
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Freedom-tier state. Very permissive - no cap, no registration, no inspection. Jefferson County includes Pine Bluff, a historically significant city in SE Arkansas. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/jefferson-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	Lonoke County	Pulaski County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	Not specified. Producers responsible for sanitary production practices.	No specific restriction in Arkansas Food Freedom Act.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery permitted in-state	Almost unlimited: direct, indirect, retail, wholesale, online, in-state and interstate sales all permitted.	No restrictions on sales channels: direct sales, farmers markets, online, interstate, retail, and wholesale to informed end consumers all p...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	No	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct and indirect sales allowed. B...	Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen. Commercial kitchen use prohibited. State law expressly preempts both state and loc...	Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201, Act 1040 of 2021) allows almost all nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous foods directly t...
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products	Acidified foods (e.g., pickles) require pH testing (final pH ≤ 4.6) and batch-number labeling with production records.	Non-perishable, non-potentially hazardous foods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing at or below 4.6 with batch-number label...
POPULATION	66,934	74,292	398,322

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

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

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