

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Pope County

Arkansas · Russellville · FIPS 05115 · Population 63,475 ·
Crosodo Index #53*

STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021, Food Freedom Act)

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: POPE COUNTY

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Pope County

Population 63,475 · State baseline: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021, Food Freedom Act) ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Arkansas Food Freedom Act: must operate from a primary residence kitchen (commercial kitchen use prohibited). State expressly preempts both state and local government restrictions on home food producers. No license, registration, or inspection required. Interstate sales allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201) expressly preempts local government restrictions on home food producers. No local permit required for cottage food.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; no registration or permit required)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Arkansas Food Freedom Act: must operate from a primary residence kitchen (commercial kitchen use prohibited). State expressly preempts both state and local government restrictions on home food producers. No license, registration, or inspection required. Interstate sales allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; good practice recommended
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable non-PHF foods primarily; acidified foods require pH testing (pH ≤4.6) and batch records

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; no registration or permit required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201) expressly preempts local government restrictions on home food producers. 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	Almost no restrictions: any channel including internet, mail, retail, wholesale. Interstate sales allowed (unusual nationally). Commercial kitchen use is prohibited — must use primary residence.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit

Relevant county code

State preempts local restrictions — no county code applies to cottage food

RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Food Freedom Act (Act 1040, 2021) is one of the most permissive: no cap, no registration, no inspection, interstate sales allowed, state preempts local restrictions. Pope County includes Russellville (home to Arkansas Tech University). No county-specific restrictions possible due to state preemption. No county URLs in input.

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/pope-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Pope County	Conway County	Johnson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition	No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation 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	Almost no restrictions: any channel including internet, mail, retail, wholesale. Interstate sales allowed (unusual nationally). Commercial ...	May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer’s agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers mar...	Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Conditional	No — state law preempts local restrictions
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	Varies	No — preempted by state law
RESTRICTIONS	Arkansas Food Freedom Act: must operate from a primary residence kitchen (commercial kitchen use prohibited). State expressly preempts both...	Must be produced at producer’s private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: produ...	Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt...
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable non-PHF foods primarily; acidified foods require pH testing (pH ≤4.6) and batch records	Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin...	Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated
POPULATION	63,475	20,782	25,925

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Pope 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.

STATUTE A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
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.	

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

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