

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Prairie County

Arkansas · Des Arc · FIPS 05117 · Population 7,935 · Crosodo Index #642\*

STATE BASELINE

A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)

STATE TIER

**Freedom**

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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: PRAIRIE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #642\* · FIPS 05117 · Des Arc

# Prairie County

Population 7,935 · State baseline: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021) · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempts local government restrictions on home food producers.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

No — state law preempts local restrictions (A.C.A. §20-57-201 explicitly preempts both state and local government from restricting home food producers; no county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection required under Act 1040; complaint-based investigation possible)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempts local government restrictions on home food producers.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; residential water supply acceptable
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard sanitary practices required; dedicated handwashing sink not mandated by statute
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection required under Act 1040; complaint-based investigation possible
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	No — state law preempts local restrictions — A.C.A. §20-57-201 explicitly preempts both state and local government from restricting home food producers; no county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	No — preempted by state law

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Yes
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	No statutory limit specified

## Relevant county code

N/A — state preemption applies; no applicable county code

### RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Food Freedom Act (Act 1040 of 2021, A.C.A. §20-57-201) is one of the most permissive cottage food laws in the US. It expressly preempts local government restrictions. No county-specific regulations found or applicable. Allowed foods: nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous foods including baked goods, candy, condiments, dry goods, preserves, fermented foods, carbonated drinks. Prohibited: perishable baked goods, low-acid canned goods, nut butters, oils, meat jerkies. Acidified foods require pH testing. No sales cap, no registration, no inspection required.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/county-health-units>

<https://www.prairiecountyar.gov/>

<https://www.prairiecountyar.gov/>

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

<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/prairie-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Prairie County	Arkansas County	Monroe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	<b>Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply</b>	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	<b>Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted</b>	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	<b>No — state law preempts local restrictions</b>	Conditional	No — state law preempts local restrictions
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	<b>No — preempted by state law</b>	Varies	No — preempted by state law
RESTRICTIONS	<b>Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt...</b>	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	<b>Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated</b>	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	8,217	17,024	6,787

## State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Prairie 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.

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

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Arkansas cottage food law report](#).

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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