

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sebastian County

Arkansas · — · FIPS 05131 · Population 128,184 · Crosodo Index #54*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Sebastian County, Arkansas — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not prohibited by state law. Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Arkansas cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Arkansas home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Arkansas label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ARKANSAS: SEBASTIAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #54* · FIPS 05131 · —

Sebastian County

Population 128,184 · 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 (One of the most permissive cottage food laws in the US. Producers may sell almost any nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous food directly to consumers. Interstate sales permitted. Retail/wholesale channels allowed as long as an informed end consumer is the final buyer. No registration, permit, or inspection required. The statute expressly preempts both state and local government restriction on home food producers.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state law. Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201) expressly preempts both state and local government restriction on home food producers. No home occupation permit may be required for cottage food operations. Sebastian County and Fort Smith cannot impose additional restrictions.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. The statute expressly preempts both state and local government restriction.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — One of the most permissive cottage food laws in the US. Producers may sell almost any nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous food directly to consumers. Interstate sales permitted. Retail/wholesale channels allowed as long as an informed end consumer is the final buyer. No registration, permit, or inspection required. The statute expressly preempts both state and local government restriction on home food producers.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not prohibited by state law. Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required (good practice); no specific mandate for cottage food.

HANDWASHING

Required per good food safety practices; no state mandate.

FOOD STORAGE

Nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous foods. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing (final pH ≤ 4.6) and batch-number labeling with production records.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspection. The statute expressly preempts both state and local government restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

No — Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201) expressly preempts both state and local government restriction on home food producers. No home occupation permit may be required for cottage food operations. Sebastian County and Fort Smith cannot impose additional restrictions.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted through any channel — direct from home, farmers markets, online, retail, wholesale, interstate delivery — as long as an informed end consumer is the final buyer.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; must operate from primary residence kitchen.

Relevant county code

A.C.A. §20-57-201 preempts local restrictions; Sebastian County cannot impose additional rules.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (AR) confirmed: A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Food Freedom Act), one of the most permissive in the country, expressly preempts local restrictions. Sebastian County govt URL confirmed. No county-specific cottage food URLs needed given state preemption. Confidence medium (state sources confirmed; county .gov confirmed but not for specific cottage food provisions).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sebastiancountyar.gov>

<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>

<https://www.sebastiancountyar.gov>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/sebastian-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sebastian County	Crawford County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not prohibited by state law. Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited.	No specific pet restriction in state law.	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	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales permitted through any channel — direct from home, farmers markets, online, retail, wholesale, interstate delivery — as long as an inf...	Almost all channels allowed including direct to consumer, retail, wholesale (if informed end consumer is final buyer), internet sales, and ...	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	No	No	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	No	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	One of the most permissive cottage food laws in the US. Producers may sell almost any nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous food directl...	Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201, eff. July 2021) expressly preempts both state and local government restrictions on home food ...	Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: produ...
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable, non-potentially hazardous foods. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing (final pH ≤4.6) and batch-number labeling with...	Non-potentially hazardous foods must be stored appropriately; no specific state mandate.	Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin...
POPULATION	128,184	60,593	17,160

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

Sebastian 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/arkansas.

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 about Sebastian County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/sebastian-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Sebastian County, Arkansas. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/sebastian-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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