

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# St. Francis County

Arkansas · Forrest City · FIPS 05123 · Population 21,822 ·  
Crosodo Index #640\*

## 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.

## How to start — 60-second path

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**No — state law preempts local restrictions**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**No**

PETS

**Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply**

### 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: ST. FRANCIS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #640\* · FIPS 05123 · Forrest City

## St. Francis County

Population 21,822 · 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

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply                                                                                                                                       |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required; residential water supply acceptable                                                                                                                                              |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard sanitary practices required; dedicated handwashing sink not mandated by statute                                                                                                                 |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated                                                                                                                                  |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No routine inspection required under Act 1040; complaint-based investigation possible                                                                                                                                |
| 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 |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | No — preempted by state law                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Yes                                                                                                 |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | 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.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

<https://www.stfranciscountyar.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 about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/st-francis-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/st-francis-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | St. Francis County                                                                                                                             | Crittenden County                                                                                                                              | Cross County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified in state statute; good manufacturing practices apply                                                                             | No specific restriction under state law; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.                                                      | 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          | Direct sales permitted; indirect sales through retail/wholesale allowed; interstate sales permitted                                            | May be sold in person, by telephone, or online. Delivery by producer, producer's agent, or commercial carrier. Sales allowed at farmers mar... | 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 — state law preempts local restrictions                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | No — preempted by state law                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Must operate from a primary residence kitchen; commercial kitchen use is prohibited under the Food Freedom Act. State law expressly preempt... | Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: produ... | Must be produced at producer's private residence. Foods must be non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety). Labeling required: produ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Safe food storage practices required; no separate storage room mandated                                                                        | Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin... | Non-TCS foods only — must not require refrigeration to prevent pathogen growth. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces) require pH testin... |
| POPULATION                 | 23,138                                                                                                                                         | 47,945                                                                                                                                         | 16,827                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Arkansas cottage food law

St. Francis 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                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| A.C.A. §20-57-201 (Act 1040 of 2021)                                                                                                                                                                            | —                 |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                           | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No                |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION                                                                                                                                                                                              | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 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](https://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 St. Francis 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/st-francis-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/st-francis-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

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

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/st-francis-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/arkansas/st-francis-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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