

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

White County

Arkansas · Searcy · FIPS 05145 · Population 77,118 · Crosodo Index #49*

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: WHITE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #49* · FIPS 05145 · Searcy

White County

Population 77,118 · 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 (Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen. Commercial kitchen use is prohibited. The law expressly preempts both state and local government restriction on home food producers. Interstate sales allowed (unusual nationally).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified. Producers responsible for sanitary production practices.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Arkansas Food Freedom Act expressly preempts both state and local government from restricting home food producers. No home occupation permit required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. State law preempts local inspection requirements.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Producers must operate from a primary residence kitchen. Commercial kitchen use is prohibited. The law expressly preempts both state and local government restriction on home food producers. Interstate sales allowed (unusual nationally).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified. Producers responsible for sanitary production practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Acidified foods such as pickles require pH testing (final pH at or below 4.6) and batch-number labeling with production records.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. State law preempts local inspection requirements.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Arkansas Food Freedom Act expressly preempts both state and local government from restricting home food producers. No home occupation permit required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Almost unlimited: direct, indirect, retail, wholesale, online, in-state and interstate sales all permitted. State law preempts local restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No restriction specified.

Relevant county code

A.C.A. §20-57-201 preempts local ordinances. No White County-specific code section applicable.

RESEARCH NOTES

Arkansas Food Freedom Act (A.C.A. §20-57-201, Act 1040 of 2021) is one of the most permissive in the nation. State law explicitly preempts local government from restricting home food producers, meaning no White County home occupation permit can be required. Interstate sales allowed — unusual nationally. No White County-specific overrides possible. Confidence: medium (state law confirmed via baseline, ADH website returned 404 at verification).

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/white-county-discuss>

State context — Arkansas cottage food law

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

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