

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chaffee County

Colorado · Salida · FIPS 08015 · Population 20,780 · Crosodo Index #3082*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

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.

COLORADO: CHAFFEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3082* · FIPS 08015 · Salida

Chaffee County

Population 20,780 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Possibly (Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Chaffee County may require a home occupation approval for home-based businesses under county land use regulations. Salida and Buena Vista (larger communities) may require town business licenses. Contact Chaffee County Planning for zoning compliance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

False (Complaint-based only per state law; Chaffee County Public Health conducts inspections of retail food facilities but not cottage food operations unless complaint-based)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; private well users should verify water quality

HANDWASHING

Required per CO cottage food food safety training requirements; Chaffee County Public Health recommends StateFoodSafety.com online training

FOOD STORAGE

Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

False — Complaint-based only per state law; Chaffee County Public Health conducts inspections of retail food facilities but not cottage food operations unless complaint-based

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Possibly — Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Chaffee County may require a home occupation approval for home-based businesses under county land use regulations. Salida and Buena Vista (larger communities) may require town business licenses. Contact Chaffee County Planning for zoning compliance.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Possibly; City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista may require local business licenses for operations within their limits

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Sole proprietor or LLC of 2 or fewer owners; no additional employees per state law

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Foods Act); Chaffee County Land Use Regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Chaffee County Public Health website confirmed; Chaffee County handles retail food establishment inspections separately from cottage food. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Outdoor recreation destination (Arkansas River whitewater); active farmers market in Salida. Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type. StateFoodSafety.com training recommended by county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Environmental-Health-Retail-Food-Program>

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Planning>

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/cottage-foods>

<https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Environmental-Health-Retail-Food-Program>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/chaffee-county-discuss>

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Chaffee County’s rules sit on top of Colorado’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

<p>STATUTE C.R.S. §25-4-1614</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p> <p>INDIRECT SALES No — Products cannot be resold; producers must sell directly to consumers but may designate a representative to sell on their behalf. Sales through restaurants or retail stores are not permitted, though the health department may allow direct sales at those locations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes</p>
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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Colorado cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf

State dept cottage food page: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/colorado/>

Questions?

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

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