

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Custer County

Colorado · Westcliffe · FIPS 08027 · Population 5,553 ·
Crosodo Index #3115*

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: CUSTER COUNTY

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Population 5,553 · 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. Custer County is a small rural mountain valley county. Producers should verify with Custer County whether any home occupation permit is required under county zoning. Westcliffe has an active small-town community.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

False (Complaint-based only per state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614))

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

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 (C.R.S. §25-4-1614)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Possibly — Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit. Custer County is a small rural mountain valley county. Producers should verify with Custer County whether any home occupation permit is required under county zoning. Westcliffe has an active small-town community.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Unlikely; small rural county; confirm with Custer County or Town of Westcliffe

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); Custer County Land Use Regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

No Custer County-specific cottage food ordinance found beyond state baseline. Small rural mountain valley county in the Wet Mountains; Westcliffe has Sangre de Cristo views. Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.custercountyco.com/public-health>

<https://www.custercountyco.com/planning>

<https://www.custercountyco.com>

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

<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/cottage-foods-checklist.pdf>

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

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Custer 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.

STATUTE C.R.S. §25-4-1614	ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
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.	

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/custer-county-discuss>
