

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Otero County

Colorado · — · FIPS 08089 · Population 17,991 · Crosodo
Index #3072*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great

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: OTERO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3072* · FIPS 08089 · —

Otero County

Population 17,991 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific county rule; standard CO cottage food applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Likely; verify with Otero County Planning (No county-specific home occupation code located. City of La Junta has separate municipal rules. Confirm with Otero County Planning & Zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint only (CDPHE complaint-based inspection under C.R.S. §25-4-1614)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific county rule; standard CO cottage food applies

WATER SUPPLY

No state or county-specific requirement for cottage food

HANDWASHING

Good manufacturing practices expected per CDPHE guidance

FOOD STORAGE

Standard sanitary storage; no additional county requirement found

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint only — CDPHE complaint-based inspection under C.R.S. §25-4-1614

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Likely; verify with Otero County Planning — No county-specific home occupation code located. City of La Junta has separate municipal rules. Confirm with Otero County Planning & Zoning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Possibly; verify with Otero County and City of La Junta

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

True

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

No specific county restriction found; state disclaimer placard required at point of sale

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Direct-to-consumer only; no wholesale; may sell from residence, farmers markets, online (CO only)

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Sole proprietor or LLC of 2 or fewer owners per state law

RESEARCH NOTES

No Otero County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance surfaced in search. State baseline (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) governs. Food safety training required before operations. Per-product \$10,000 annual cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.oterocounty.org/departments/public-health>

<https://www.oterocounty.org/departments/planning>

<https://www.oterocounty.org>

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

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb12-048>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Otero County	Bent County	Crowley County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	No specific county rule; standard CO cottage food applies	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint only	False	False
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No specific county restriction found; state disclaimer placard required at point of sale	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only; no wholesale; may sell from residence, farmers markets, online (CO only)	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Likely; verify with Otero County Planning	Possibly	Possibly
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Possibly; verify with Otero County and City of La Junta	Unlikely; rural county with minimal business licensing infrastructure; confirm with Bent County or City of Las Animas	Unlikely; very rural county with minimal business licensing infrastructure; confirm with Crowley County or Town of Ordway
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	Standard sanitary storage; no additional county requirement found	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)
POPULATION	18,580	5,561	5,782

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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