

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Routt County

Colorado · — · FIPS 08107 · Population 25,243 · Crosodo
Index #3097*

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: ROUTT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3097* · FIPS 08107 · —

Routt County

Population 25,243 · 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?

Yes (for unincorporated county); verify for Steamboat Springs separately (Routt County Unified Development Code (effective July 29, 2025) classifies Home Occupation as 'R' (right-by-review) in all residential and rural zone districts. Home Industry requires Special Use Permit ('S') in some districts. Cottage foods would fall under Home Occupation category. City of Steamboat Springs has separate, stricter resort-town 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 Yes (for unincorporated county); verify for Steamboat Springs separately — Routt County Unified Development Code (effective July 29, 2025) classifies Home Occupation as 'R' (right-by-review) in all residential and rural zone districts. Home Industry requires Special Use Permit ('S') in some districts. Cottage foods would fall under Home Occupation category. City of Steamboat Springs has separate, stricter resort-town zoning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Possibly; verify with Routt County and City of Steamboat Springs as applicable

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

Relevant county code

Routt County Unified Development Code, Chapter 2, Land Use Table (2024); see co-routtcounty2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/7346

RESEARCH NOTES

Routt County UDC (adopted June 11, 2024, effective July 29, 2025) classifies Home Occupation as 'R' (review-based permit) across all residential/rural districts. This means a home occupation review/permit is required county-wide for unincorporated areas. Cottage foods are specifically allowed under state law but local zoning permit still required. City of Steamboat Springs operates separately with resort-area zoning considerations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.routt.co.us/147/Public-Health>

<https://www.co.routt.co.us/153/Planning>

<https://www.co.routt.co.us>

<https://co-routtcounty2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/7346/Uses-By-Zone-District-Table>

<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/routt-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Routt County	Grand County	Jackson 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	Yes (for unincorporated county); verify for Steamboat Springs separately	Possibly	Possibly
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Possibly; verify with Routt County and City of Steamboat Springs as applicable	Possibly; Town of Winter Park, Town of Granby may require town business licenses for operations within town limits; confirm with respective...	Unlikely; very rural county; confirm with Jackson County or Town of Walden
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	24,944	15,724	1,440

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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