

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Douglas County

Kansas · Lawrence · FIPS 20045 · Population 119,094 ·
Crosodo Index #1005*

STATE BASELINE

K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4); no sales cap; no registration; no inspection (upon-complaint); direct sales only; most non-TCS foods allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Great	—	HIGH	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.

KANSAS: DOUGLAS COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kansas allows nearly all non-TCS foods for direct consumer sales without registration or inspection. Douglas County (Lawrence) has home-based business regulations with Type 1 and Type 2 categories. Type 1 (lower impact) permitted by right; Type 2 (production for off-site sale) requires biennial registration.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Douglas County requires home-based business registration for Type 2 businesses (production of materials for sale off-premise, like cottage food). Type 2 businesses must biennially register and pay a registration fee. As of 2025 proposed amendment (unanimously recommended by Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Dec 2024): Type 1 (lower-impact) would be permitted by right with no registration. Type 2 remains registration-required biennially. Contact Douglas County Zoning and Codes at 785-331-1343 or zoning@dgcocks.gov.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Kansas does not require routine inspections for cottage food. Kansas Admin. Regs. §4-28-33 sets sanitation rules. Complaint-driven investigation possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Kansas allows nearly all non-TCS foods for direct consumer sales without registration or inspection. Douglas County (Lawrence) has home-based business regulations with Type 1 and Type 2 categories. Type 1 (lower impact) permitted by right; Type 2 (production for off-site sale) requires biennial registration.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under KS cottage food law.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas), most perishable baked goods, low-acid canned foods, kombucha, and meat jerkies are prohibited. Lab-tested borderline items may be allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Kansas does not require routine inspections for cottage food. Kansas Admin. Regs. §4-28-33 sets sanitation rules. Complaint-driven investigation possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Douglas County requires home-based business registration for Type 2 businesses (production of materials for sale off-premise, like cottage food). Type 2 businesses must biennially register and pay a registration fee. As of 2025 proposed amendment (unanimously recommended by Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Dec 2024): Type 1 (lower-impact) would be permitted by right with no registration. Type 2 remains registration-required biennially. Contact Douglas County Zoning and Codes at 785-331-1343 or zoning@dgcoks.gov.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Kansas allows direct sales only: home, farmers markets, events, online. No wholesale or retail store sales. Out-of-state sales allowed with additional requirements per KSU Extension.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Type 2 home business: maximum 4 full-time non-resident employees. Restaurants are expressly prohibited.

Relevant county code

Douglas County Zoning Regulations Ch. 12, §12-306-21 (Home-Based Businesses); K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4); Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33

RESEARCH NOTES

County-specific data confirmed from official Douglas County government website (dgcoks.gov). Douglas County has a detailed Type 1/Type 2 home business system. Cottage food production for off-site sale likely qualifies as Type 2 (biennial registration required). A 2025 text amendment was under consideration to streamline Type 1 to permit-by-right. Kansas state law allows most non-TCS foods with no registration. Restaurants are expressly prohibited as home businesses. The county_planning_url dgcoks.gov confirmed active. Confidence high: both state law and county zoning rules confirmed from official government sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.dgcoks.gov/zoning-and-codes/home-business>
- <https://www.douglascountyks.org>
- <https://www.dgcoks.gov/zoning-and-codes/home-business>
- <https://www.dgcoks.gov/zoning-and-codes/feature/2025/01/09/updated-home-based-business-regulations>
- <http://dgcoks.gov/zoning-and-codes/zoning>
- <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-food-safety/cottage-food>
- https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065_006_0057.html

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

State context — Kansas cottage food law

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

STATUTE K.S.A. §65-657	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Indirect sales to restaurants, retail stores, or wholesale are not allowed under the exemption; producers needing wholesale or retail channels must obtain a KDA food processing license.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Kansas cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065_006_0057.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-food-safety/cottage-food>

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

Questions?

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

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