

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ford County

Kansas · Dodge City · FIPS 20057 · Population 34,072 ·
Crosodo Index #1857*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
K.S.A. §65-657	Great	—	MEDIUM	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.

KANSAS: FORD COUNTY

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Ford County

Population 34,072 · State baseline: K.S.A. §65-657 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)). No registration, inspection, or food handler certificate required at state level. Local zoning home occupation rules may apply — contact Ford County zoning office or City of Dodge City planning department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level food permit required for non-TCS cottage foods. Local zoning ordinances for home occupations may require a permit. Contact Ford County zoning or City of Dodge City planning department to verify requirements for home-based food businesses.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Kansas Department of Agriculture may investigate complaints; no routine home kitchen inspection for exempt cottage food operations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)). No registration, inspection, or food handler certificate required at state level. Local zoning home occupation rules may apply — contact Ford County zoning office or City of Dodge City planning department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under Kansas cottage food exemption.
HANDWASHING	Good sanitary practices required per Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; no refrigeration-required products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Kansas Department of Agriculture may investigate complaints; no routine home kitchen inspection for exempt cottage food operations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state-level food permit required for non-TCS cottage foods. Local zoning ordinances for home occupations may require a permit. Contact Ford County zoning or City of Dodge City planning department to verify requirements for home-based food businesses.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, events, roadside stands, online with delivery within Kansas. No wholesale or retail resale. Out-of-state shipping allowed with additional requirements.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Ford County cottage food ordinance identified. State exemption (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)) applies statewide.

RESEARCH NOTES

Kansas cottage food exemption (K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)) applies statewide. Ford County includes Dodge City, a regional hub in southwest Kansas. No county-specific cottage food ordinance found; City of Dodge City may have home occupation permit requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/ford-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ford County	Clark County	Edwards County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law; good sanitary practices required.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, events, roadside stands, online with delivery within Kansas. No wholesale ...	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, events, roadside stands, online with delivery within Kansas. No wholesale ...	Direct-to-consumer only. Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, events, roadside stands, online with delivery within Kansas. No wholesale ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689...	Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689...	Kansas exempts non-TCS (shelf-stable) homemade foods sold direct-to-consumer from food establishment licensing requirements (K.S.A. §65-689...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; no refrigeration-required products.	Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; no refrigeration-required products.	Non-TCS (shelf-stable) foods only; no refrigeration-required products.
POPULATION	34,212	1,977	2,849

State context — Kansas cottage food law

Ford 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.

<p>STATUTE K.S.A. §65-657</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP —</p>
<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p>	<p>FOOD HANDLER CERT No</p>
<p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p>	<p>DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes</p>
<p>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.</p>	

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/kansas/ford-county-discuss>
