

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Shawnee County

Kansas · Topeka · FIPS 20177 · Population 178,625 · Crosodo Index #2180\*

STATE BASELINE

K.S.A. §65-657 (general); operative provision K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

LAST VERIFIED

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: SHAWNEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2180\* · FIPS 20177 · Topeka

# Shawnee County

Population 178,625 · State baseline: K.S.A. §65-657 (general); operative provision K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)

**HIGH**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (No registration, no inspection, no cap. Direct sales only. Non-TCS foods. Some items (acidified foods, oils) prohibited. Some lab-tested items may be allowed with prior testing. Out-of-state sales allowed with additional requirements.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit state restriction; Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33 sets sanitation rules for exempt establishments.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Shawnee County requires a home occupation permit from the Land Use & Development Department for any home-based business in unincorporated residential areas. Standards per Sec. 29.02(a)(9) of Shawnee County Zoning Regulations: business must be secondary to residential use, conducted by residents only, no outdoor activities, business must not create nuisances. A permit is required before establishing any home occupation. City of Topeka has its own home occupation rules separate from county.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (No routine inspections. Kansas Dept. of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — No registration, no inspection, no cap. Direct sales only. Non-TCS foods. Some items (acidified foods, oils) prohibited. Some lab-tested items may be allowed with prior testing. Out-of-state sales allowed with additional requirements.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit state restriction; Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33 sets sanitation rules for exempt establishments.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water supply required per sanitation rules.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Adequate handwashing per Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable products stored in sanitary conditions per KAR 4-28-33.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — No routine inspections. Kansas Dept. of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Yes — Shawnee County requires a home occupation permit from the Land Use & Development Department for any home-based business in unincorporated residential areas. Standards per Sec. 29.02(a)(9) of Shawnee County Zoning Regulations: business must be secondary to residential use, conducted by residents only, no outdoor activities, business must not create nuisances. A permit is required before establishing any home occupation. City of Topeka has its own home occupation rules separate from county.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales at home, farmers markets, online with delivery. Out-of-state sales allowed with additional requirements per KSU Extension MF3138.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Business must be conducted by residents of the dwelling only per county zoning.

### Relevant county code

Shawnee County Zoning Regulations §29.02(a)(9) (home occupations); K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Shawnee County official website confirms home occupation permit required from Land Use & Development Department. County seat Topeka was blank in input – confirmed as Topeka. Official snco.gov page provides specific standards for home occupation permits (Sec. 29.02(a)(9)). Kansas cottage food operative provision is K.S.A. §65-689(d)(4), not the input citation of §65-657. Out-of-state sales possible with additional requirements – rare among states.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.snco.us>

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

[https://www.snco.gov/ludev/permitting\\_permits\\_homeuse.php](https://www.snco.gov/ludev/permitting_permits_homeuse.php)

[https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065\\_006\\_0057.html](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/shawnee-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Shawnee County	Douglas County	Jackson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; Kan. Admin. Regs. §4-28-33 sets sanitation rules for exempt establishments.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales at home, farmers markets, online with delivery. Out-of-state sales allowed with additional requirements per KSU Ex...	Kansas allows direct sales only: home, farmers markets, events, online. No wholesale or retail store sales. Out-of-state sales allowed with...	Direct delivery to consumer permitted in-state; on-site pickup allowed; deliveries must use off-street parking
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	No registration, no inspection, no cap. Direct sales only. Non-TCS foods. Some items (acidified foods, oils) prohibited. Some lab-tested it...	Kansas allows nearly all non-TCS foods for direct consumer sales without registration or inspection. Douglas County (Lawrence) has home-bas...	No sales cap. No food handler cert required. Direct-to-consumer sales only; allowed at farm, farmers market, roadside stand, home, and even...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products stored in sanitary conditions per KAR 4-28-33.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas), most perishable baked goods, low-acid canned foods, kombucha, and meat je...	Appropriate storage to maintain product safety
POPULATION	178,625	119,094	13,462

## State context — Kansas cottage food law

Shawnee 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.

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

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: [https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065\\_006\\_0057.html](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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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