

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bell County

Kentucky · Pineville · FIPS 21013 · Population 26,060 ·
Crosodo Index #1285*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
KRS §217.136	Okay	60000	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.

KENTUCKY: BELL COUNTY

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Bell County

Population 26,060 · State baseline: KRS §217.136 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CHFS is required (\$50/year). Annual sales cap of \$60,000. Direct sales only — farmers markets, farm stands, home pickup, and events permitted. No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators permitted.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Bell County is a small southeastern Kentucky county in the Cumberland Mountains. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance beyond the state registration requirement was identified. CHFS registration (\$50/year) is the primary permit requirement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection; complaint-driven only per state baseline.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CHFS is required (\$50/year). Annual sales cap of \$60,000. Direct sales only — farmers markets, farm stands, home pickup, and events permitted. No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state handwashing mandate beyond general food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection; complaint-driven only per state baseline.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Bell County is a small southeastern Kentucky county in the Cumberland Mountains. No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance beyond the state registration requirement was identified. CHFS registration (\$50/year) is the primary permit requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based indirect sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; commercial equipment and separate commercial kitchen prohibited.

Relevant county code

No specific Bell County cottage food ordinance identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Bell County is a small southeastern Kentucky county in the Appalachian coal region (pop. ~26,060). No county-specific cottage food ordinance was found. Defaulting to Kentucky state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/homebasedprocessing.aspx>

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=48558>

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

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

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

STATUTE KRS §217.137	ANNUAL SALES CAP 60000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Sales limited to direct-to-consumer only within Kentucky — from home (pickup or delivery), markets, roadside stands, community events, and online; shipping outside Kentucky is prohibited, and sales to restaurants or retail stores for resale are not allowed.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=44478>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/kentucky/bell-county-discuss>
