

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Hardin County

Kentucky · Elizabethtown · FIPS 21093 · Population 111,005 ·  
Crosodo Index #2700\*

## STATE BASELINE

KRS §217.136 (home-based processor); \$60,000 annual sales cap; registration required (\$50/year); no inspection; direct sales only; limited food categories

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	60000	MEDIUM	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.

KENTUCKY: HARDIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2700\* · FIPS 21093 · Elizabethtown

# Hardin County

Population 111,005 · State baseline: KRS §217.136 (home-based processor); \$60,000 annual sales cap; registration required (\$50/year); no inspection; direct sales only; limited food categories · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Kentucky allows non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, granola, etc. from home kitchen. Registration required with KY Dept. for Public Health (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090). Limited to no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators. Commercial equipment prohibited.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

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

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No specific Hardin County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Kentucky KRS §217.136 registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Hardin County (Elizabethtown area, near Fort Knox) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. Contact Hardin County Planning or Elizabethtown city planning.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Kentucky registration requires application review but no routine kitchen inspection. Complaint-driven investigation by local health department possible.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Kentucky allows non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, granola, etc. from home kitchen. Registration required with KY Dept. for Public Health (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090). Limited to no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators. Commercial equipment prohibited.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under KY home-based processor law.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas), fermented foods, nut butters, oils, vinegars, pasta, juices, meat jerkies all prohibited under §217.136.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Kentucky registration requires application review but no routine kitchen inspection. Complaint-driven investigation by local health department possible.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No specific Hardin County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Kentucky KRS §217.136 registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Hardin County (Elizabethtown area, near Fort Knox) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. Contact Hardin County Planning or Elizabethtown city planning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Kentucky allows direct sales only: from home, farmers markets, events. Online/in-state shipping status unclear. No wholesale, restaurants, or retail stores. \$60,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state employee limit; commercial equipment prohibited; max 2 non-commercial ranges/ovens, 3 refrigerators.

### Relevant county code

KRS §217.136; 902 KAR 45:090

#### RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (KY tier Okay). Kentucky is distinctive for prohibiting commercial kitchen equipment and limiting non-commercial equipment. Hardin County includes Elizabethtown and is adjacent to Fort Knox military installation. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

---

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hardin County	Bullitt County	Jefferson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	Not specified in state law.	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Kentucky allows direct sales only: from home, farmers markets, events. Online/in-state shipping status unclear. No wholesale, restaurants, ...	Direct sales only: in-person at home, events, farmers markets. No wholesale, no online shipping under KRS §217.136.	Direct-to-consumer only (farmers markets, events, home sales). No wholesale to restaurants or stores. No internet/mail order. \$60,000 annua...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Kentucky allows non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/ jellies, granola, etc. from home kitchen. Registration required with KY Dept. for Public...	Kentucky home-based processor: registration required (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090), \$60,000 annual sales cap. Allowed: non-TCS baked goods, ca...	Jefferson County is Louisville Metro — a consolidated city-county government. Home-based processor registration (\$50/year with KDPH, 902 KA...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas), fermented foods, nut butters, oils, vinegars, pasta, juices, meat je...	No more than 3 refrigerators allowed; standard food safety storage practices.	Standard food storage; max 3 refrigerators; no more than 2 non-commercial ranges/ovens
POPULATION	111,005	82,482	779,232

## State context — Kentucky cottage food law

Hardin 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.

---

<b>STATUTE</b> KRS §217.137	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 60000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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 Hardin County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

---