

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Kentucky · Louisville · FIPS 21111 · Population 779,232 ·
Crosodo Index #2238*

STATE BASELINE

KRS §217.136 (home-based processor); annual cap \$60,000; registration \$50/year

| 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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2238* · FIPS 21111 · Louisville

Jefferson County

Population 779,232 · State baseline: KRS §217.136 (home-based processor); annual cap \$60,000; registration \$50/year · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Jefferson County is Louisville Metro — a consolidated city-county government. Home-based processor registration (\$50/year with KDPH, 902 KAR 45:090) required. No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and no more than three refrigerators. Commercial equipment and separate commercial kitchen prohibited.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Louisville Metro Government (LMCO) has home occupation regulations in its Land Development Code. Contact Louisville Metro Planning & Design Services for home occupation requirements. Louisville Metro also issues business licenses. Check LMCO Chapter 4, Zoning for home occupation provisions.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Kentucky Department of Public Health may inspect upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Jefferson County is Louisville Metro — a consolidated city-county government. Home-based processor registration (\$50/year with KDPH, 902 KAR 45:090) required. No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and no more than three refrigerators. Commercial equipment and separate commercial kitchen prohibited. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies |
| WATER SUPPLY | Potable water; state baseline |
| HANDWASHING | Standard sanitation required per home-based processor regulations |
| FOOD STORAGE | Standard food storage; max 3 refrigerators; no more than 2 non-commercial ranges/ovens |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint — Kentucky Department of Public Health may inspect upon complaint. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Louisville Metro Government (LMCO) has home occupation regulations in its Land Development Code. Contact Louisville Metro Planning & Design Services for home occupation requirements. Louisville Metro also issues business licenses. Check LMCO Chapter 4, Zoning for home occupation provisions. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Yes |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer only (farmers markets, events, home sales). No wholesale to restaurants or stores. No internet/mail order. \$60,000 annual cap. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Unknown |

Relevant county code

KRS §217.136; 902 KAR 45:090; Louisville Metro Land Development Code for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County/Louisville Metro is a consolidated city-county government. State baseline applies: KRS §217.136 home-based processor, \$60,000 annual cap, \$50/year registration fee. No Jefferson County-specific modification of state rules found. Louisville Metro has its own planning and zoning code — home occupation requirements likely apply. Confidence medium as specific Louisville Metro home occupation permit details not directly verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/public-health-wellness>

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/planning-design>

<https://louisvilleky.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Jefferson County | Hardin County | Bullitt County |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies | 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 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct-to-consumer only (farmers markets, events, home sales). No wholesale to restaurants or stores. No internet/mail order. \$60,000 annua... | 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. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional | Varies | Varies |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Yes | Varies | Varies |
| RESTRICTIONS | Jefferson County is Louisville Metro — a consolidated city-county government. Home-based processor registration (\$50/year with KDPH, 902 KA... | 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... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Standard food storage; max 3 refrigerators; no more than 2 non-commercial ranges/ovens | 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. |
| POPULATION | 779,232 | 111,005 | 82,482 |

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

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

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