

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Knox County

Kentucky · Barbourville · FIPS 21121 · Population 29,657 ·
Crosodo Index #2144*

| 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: KNOX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2144* · FIPS 21121 · Barbourville

Knox County

Population 29,657 · State baseline: KRS §217.136 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kentucky Home-Based Processor (HBP) law (KRS §217.136) allows production and direct sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a primary residence. Annual registration required (\$50/year, form DFS-250). \$60,000 annual gross sales cap. Direct-to-consumer sales only (home, farmers markets, community events, roadside stands, delivery). No kitchen inspection required. No commercial equipment allowed. No domestic activity during food production. Labeling must include processor name/address, product name, ingredients, net weight, date processed, and statement 'This product is home-produced and processed.' (10-point type).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets and children must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per KRS §217.136 and associated regulations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific home occupation ordinance identified for Knox County. State law requires annual \$50 registration with CHFS Food Safety Branch (form DFS-250) before selling. Operators should contact the Knox County planning/zoning office and county judge-executive to confirm whether a local home occupation permit or business license is also required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cabinet for Health and Family Services may inspect annually at discretion, or upon complaint/mislabeling report. No routine pre-approval inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Kentucky Home-Based Processor (HBP) law (KRS §217.136) allows production and direct sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a primary residence. Annual registration required (\$50/year, form DFS-250). \$60,000 annual gross sales cap. Direct-to-consumer sales only (home, farmers markets, community events, roadside stands, delivery). No kitchen inspection required. No commercial equipment allowed. No domestic activity during food production. Labeling must include processor name/address, product name, ingredients, net weight, date processed, and statement 'This product is home-produced and processed.' (10-point type). |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Pets and children must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per KRS §217.136 and associated regulations. |
| WATER SUPPLY | No specific water testing requirement under KRS §217.136; standard residential water supply assumed. |
| HANDWASHING | Standard food safety handwashing practices expected; no specific statutory mandate beyond general food safety. Candy must not be touched with bare hands — gloves or utensils required. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS (non-potentially hazardous), shelf-stable foods only. No commercial refrigerators permitted beyond household limits (up to three standard residential refrigerators allowed). No commercial equipment. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — Cabinet for Health and Family Services may inspect annually at discretion, or upon complaint/mislabeling report. No routine pre-approval inspection required. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — No county-specific home occupation ordinance identified for Knox County. State law requires annual \$50 registration with CHFS Food Safety Branch (form DFS-250) before selling. Operators should contact the Knox County planning/zoning office and county judge-executive to confirm whether a local home occupation permit or business license is also required. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer only. Permitted venues: home (on-premises pickup), farmers markets, certified roadside stands, community events, fairs, festivals, and personal delivery within Kentucky. Online orders allowed if fulfilled by in-state pickup or personal delivery. No wholesale to restaurants or retail stores. No mail/common-carrier shipping. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | No paid outside employees; family members living in the household may assist. (KRS §217.136 does not authorize hired employees.) |

Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance identified for Knox County. State law (KRS §217.136) governs. Local zoning may apply — contact county planning office.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific zoning ordinance or cottage food regulation identified for Knox County in 1-2 targeted searches. Record defaults to Kentucky state baseline (KRS §217.136). Key state rules: \$60,000 annual sales cap; \$50/year registration fee (form DFS-250) with CHFS Food Safety Branch; no kitchen inspection; direct-to-consumer only; no commercial equipment; pets/children excluded during production. Home-based microprocessor (HBM) pathway (KRS §217.137) available for farmers selling acidified/canned foods with additional UK workshop and recipe-approval requirements. Local zoning requirements for home occupation permits should be verified with county planning office.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Knox County | Bell County | Clay County |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Pets and children must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per KRS §217.136 and associated regulations. | No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected. | No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected. |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | Yes | Yes |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct-to-consumer only. Permitted venues: home (on-premises pickup), farmers markets, certified roadside stands, community events, fairs, ... | Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based... | Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies | No | No |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| RESTRICTIONS | Kentucky Home-Based Processor (HBP) law (KRS §217.136) allows production and direct sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a primary resid... | Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CH... | Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CH... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS (non-potentially hazardous), shelf-stable foods only. No commercial refrigerators permitted beyond household limits (up to three st... | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage. | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage. |
| POPULATION | 30,207 | 26,060 | 19,206 |

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

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

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