

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Warren County

Kentucky · Bowling Green · FIPS 21227 · Population 135,307 ·
Crosodo Index #2693*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
KRS §217.136 / §217.137	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: WARREN COUNTY

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Warren County

Population 135,307 · State baseline: KRS §217.136 / §217.137 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual gross sales capped at \$60,000. \$50/year registration required. Equipment limits: no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens, no more than three refrigerators. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, salsas, sauces, mustards, nut butters, oils, vinegars, pasta, fermented foods, juices, meat jerkies.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Warren County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. City of Bowling Green (home of Western Kentucky University) has its own home occupation ordinance. No specific county-level cottage food override identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (KCHFS may inspect upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual gross sales capped at \$60,000. \$50/year registration required. Equipment limits: no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens, no more than three refrigerators. Prohibited: acidified foods, pickles, salsas, sauces, mustards, nut butters, oils, vinegars, pasta, fermented foods, juices, meat jerkies.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, fruit butters, dried goods, granola, snacks only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — KCHFS may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Warren County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. City of Bowling Green (home of Western Kentucky University) has its own home occupation ordinance. No specific county-level cottage food override identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, and events.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

KRS §217.136; KRS §217.137.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (KY) confirmed. Warren County includes Bowling Green, a mid-sized college city. No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/warren-county-discuss>

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

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

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