

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Benton County

Mississippi · Ashland · FIPS 28009 · Population 7,566 ·
Crosodo Index #855*

STATE BASELINE

Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

35000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

MISSISSIPPI: BENTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #855* · FIPS 28009 · Ashland

Benton County

Population 7,566 · State baseline: Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Mississippi cottage food law (§75-29-951) permits home kitchen production and direct-to-consumer sales of nonpotentially hazardous foods with a \$35,000 annual sales cap. Internet sales, mail order, wholesale, and retail establishment sales are prohibited. Benton County is a small rural north Mississippi county; no county-level zoning ordinance was identified.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Mississippi law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Benton County is a rural unzoned county with no identified county-level home occupation permit ordinance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Mississippi MSDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections required under §75-29-951.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Mississippi cottage food law (§75-29-951) permits home kitchen production and direct-to-consumer sales of nonpotentially hazardous foods with a \$35,000 annual sales cap. Internet sales, mail order, wholesale, and retail establishment sales are prohibited. Benton County is a small rural north Mississippi county; no county-level zoning ordinance was identified.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Mississippi law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement for Mississippi cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices expected; no specific statutory handwashing requirement for cottage food.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Mississippi MSDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections required under §75-29-951.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Benton County is a rural unzoned county with no identified county-level home occupation permit ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Unknown

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Unknown
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Mississippi cottage food law requires direct-to-consumer sales only; home pickup is permitted. Internet sales and mail order are prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state cap on employees for cottage food operations under §75-29-951.

Relevant county code

Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951

RESEARCH NOTES

Mississippi state baseline applied. Benton County is one of Mississippi’s smallest and most rural counties. No county-level zoning or home occupation ordinance found. Mississippi §75-29-951 \$35,000 annual sales cap applies. Medium confidence due to absence of county-specific research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://law.justia.com/codes/mississippi/title-75/chapter-29/article-21/section-75-29-951/>
- <https://msdh.ms.gov/page/30,0,77,620.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Benton County	Marshall County	Tippah County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Mississippi law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Unknown	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Mississippi cottage food law requires direct-to-consumer sales only; home pickup is permitted. Internet sales and mail order are prohibited.	Direct sales only. In-person sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, and events are permitted. No internet/mail-order sal...	In-person direct-to-consumer sales only. No internet sales, mail order, wholesale, or retail establishment sales permitted under state law.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Unknown	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Mississippi cottage food law (§75-29-951) permits home kitchen production and direct-to-consumer sales of nonpotentially hazardous foods wi...	Mississippi Cottage Food Law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) allows sale of non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in a private home kitchen...	Must produce in home kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual gross sales cap \$35,000. Direct-to-consumer sales only (no inter...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination per good manufacturing practices.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only. Must be stored in private home (kitchen or attached rooms used exclusively for storage)...	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	7,637	33,980	21,769

State context — Mississippi cottage food law

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

STATUTE Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951	ANNUAL SALES CAP 35000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Mississippi prohibits Internet sales, mail order, wholesale, and retail establishment sales. Cottage food products may only be sold through in-person direct-to-consumer channels including events, farmers markets, home sales, and roadside stands. Advertising on the Internet including social media is permitted even though sales through those channels are not.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/mississippi/title-75/chapter-29/article-21/section-75-29-951/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://msdh.ms.gov/page/30,0,76.html>

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/mississippi/benton-county-discuss>
