

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Monroe County

Mississippi · Aberdeen · FIPS 28095 · Population 33,483 ·  
Crosodo Index #2370\*

## 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: MONROE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2370\* · FIPS 28095 · Aberdeen

# Monroe County

Population 33,483 · State baseline: Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Mississippi Cottage Food Law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) allows sale of non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in a private home kitchen. Annual gross sales cap: \$35,000. No permit, license, or food safety training required by state. Direct sales only (in-person from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, events). No internet, mail-order, or wholesale/retail establishment sales. Sales limited to within Mississippi. Products must be labeled with producer name/address, product name/ingredients, net weight, allergen info, and statement that the product was made in a cottage food operation.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No state-level permit is required for cottage food operations under Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951. However, Monroe County (unincorporated areas) may require a local business license or permit — producers should contact the Monroe County chancery clerk or board of supervisors to determine if a business license is required. Incorporated municipalities within the county may have additional zoning or business license requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (MSDH has authority to investigate upon complaint of unsafe food or violation of Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951. No routine scheduled inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>       | Yes — Mississippi Cottage Food Law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) allows sale of non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in a private home kitchen. Annual gross sales cap: \$35,000. No permit, license, or food safety training required by state. Direct sales only (in-person from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, events). No internet, mail-order, or wholesale/retail establishment sales. Sales limited to within Mississippi. Products must be labeled with producer name/address, product name/ingredients, net weight, allergen info, and statement that the product was made in a cottage food operation. |
| <b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b> | No   |
| <b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>           | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.   |
| <b>WATER SUPPLY</b>               | No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.  |
| <b>HANDWASHING</b>                | No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general safe food handling per MSDH guidance.  |
| <b>FOOD STORAGE</b>               | Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only. Must be stored in private home (kitchen or attached rooms used exclusively for storage) following FDA Retail Food Code guidelines to prevent adulteration.   |

### Inspection & permitting

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>    | Upon-complaint — MSDH has authority to investigate upon complaint of unsafe food or violation of Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951. No routine scheduled inspections.   |
| <b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b> | Varies — No state-level permit is required for cottage food operations under Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951. However, Monroe County (unincorporated areas) may require a local business license or permit — producers should contact the Monroe County chancery clerk or board of supervisors to determine if a business license is required. Incorporated municipalities within the county may have additional zoning or business license requirements. |
| <b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b> | Varies   |

### Customer-facing rules

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b> | Yes  |
| <b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>         | Conditional  |
| <b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b> | Direct sales only. In-person sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, and events are permitted. No internet/mail-order sales. No wholesale or retail establishment sales. Sales must occur within Mississippi only. |
| <b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>   | Not specified in state statute. Products must be made by the cottage food operator in their private home kitchen.  |

### Relevant county code

No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified for Monroe County. State law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) governs statewide. County zoning for unincorporated areas may not exist or may be limited; verify with county planning office.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Mississippi is a direct-sales-only state with a \$35,000 annual cap. The cottage food law is governed statewide; no county-specific cottage food ordinance was identified. Many rural Mississippi counties do not have county zoning ordinances for unincorporated areas — Mississippi law (Miss. Code Ann. §17-1-1 et seq.) requires a special legislative act for each county to enact zoning, and most low-population Delta/pine belt counties have not done so. Producers should verify with the county chancery clerk or planning/permitting office whether a business license is required. No county-specific home occupation zoning rules were found that add restrictions beyond state law for this county. Monroe County is a predominantly rural Mississippi county. Allowed foods include baked goods (breads, cakes, cookies, pies, pastries), candy, chocolate-covered nonperishables, dried fruit, dried pasta, dried spices, dry baking mixes, granola/cereal/trail mixes, dry rubs, fruit pies, jams/jellies, and other non-PHF items. Prohibited: meat, fish, poultry, dairy (including custard pies), eggs (except air-dried hard-cooked with intact shell), cooked vegetables, raw seed sprouts, sliced melons, garlic/herbs in oil, cooked potatoes, legumes, beans, nut butters, fruit/vegetable juices, rice, low-acid canned foods, smoked fish, pasteurized/pre-cooked foods.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://msdh.ms.gov/page/30,0,77,620.html>

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Monroe County  | Chickasaw County   | Clay County  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes  | Yes  | Yes  |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No   | No   | No   |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.   | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.   | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food 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 sales only. In-person sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, and events are permitted. No internet/mail-order sal... | Direct sales only. In-person sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, and events are permitted. No internet/mail-order sal... | Direct sales only. In-person sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, and events are permitted. No internet/mail-order sal... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies   | Varies   | Varies   |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies   | Varies   | Varies   |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Mississippi Cottage Food Law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) allows sale of non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in a private home kitchen... | Mississippi Cottage Food Law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) allows sale of non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in a private home kitchen... | Mississippi Cottage Food Law (Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951) allows sale of non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in a private home kitchen... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only. Must be stored in private home (kitchen or attached rooms used exclusively for storage)... | Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only. Must be stored in private home (kitchen or attached rooms used exclusively for storage)... | Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only. Must be stored in private home (kitchen or attached rooms used exclusively for storage)... |
| POPULATION                 | 34,168   | 17,024   | 18,598   |

## State context — Mississippi cottage food law

Monroe 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.

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|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>STATUTE</b><br>Miss. Code Ann. §75-29-951  | <b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b><br>35000 |
| <b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b><br>No  | <b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b><br>No   |
| <b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b><br>Upon-complaint   | <b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b><br>Yes  |
| <b>INDIRECT SALES</b><br>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. |                                  |

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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