

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Adair County

Missouri · Kirksville · FIPS 29001 · Population 25,660 ·  
Crosodo Index #852\*

## STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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.

MISSOURI: ADAIR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #852\* · FIPS 29001 · Kirksville

# Adair County

Population 25,660 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes. Direct-to-consumer sales only (including online/in-state shipping as of 2022 HB 1697 amendment). State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No sales cap. No registration required. No food handler cert required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Adair County does not appear to have county-wide zoning. Kirksville (county seat) has its own city zoning; a home occupation permit may be required by the City of Kirksville for running a business from a residential property. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers should verify with Kirksville city planning.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes. Direct-to-consumer sales only (including online/in-state shipping as of 2022 HB 1697 amendment). State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No sales cap. No registration required. No food handler cert required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific water testing requirement for Missouri cottage food operations.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing per GMP; no specific statutory requirement for cottage food.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination. No state-mandated specific storage requirements for cottage food.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Adair County does not appear to have county-wide zoning. Kirksville (county seat) has its own city zoning; a home occupation permit may be required by the City of Kirksville for running a business from a residential property. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers should verify with Kirksville city planning.
<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>	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022 amendment), and at events/farmers markets. Home pickup permitted. Delivery to customers allowed. No sales at restaurants or retail stores under §196.298.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified by Missouri state cottage food law.

### Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298; Kirksville city zoning ordinance

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Rural north-central Missouri county (home of Truman State University). Missouri state baseline governs; no Adair County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Missouri prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Most Missouri rural counties lack county-wide zoning; home occupation rules apply at city level. The 2022 HB 1697 amendment added online/in-state shipping capability.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.adaircountymo.org>

<https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Adair County	Knox County	Linn 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 Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.	No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022 amendment), and at events/ farmers...	Direct sales at home and in-state delivery. Farmers markets, online sales with in-state delivery allowed since 2022. No interstate sales.	Direct sales at home and in-state delivery. Farmers markets, online sales with in-state delivery allowed since 2022. No interstate sales.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastrie...	Missouri Cottage Law is narrow: only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/ jellies, and dried herbs/mixes are permitted. All other foods r...	Missouri Cottage Law is narrow: only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/ jellies, and dried herbs/mixes are permitted. All other foods r...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination. No state-mandated specific storage requirements for cottage food.	Shelf-stable storage for baked goods, jams, jellies, dried herbs.	Shelf-stable storage for baked goods, jams, jellies, dried herbs.
POPULATION	25,299	3,772	11,892

## State context — Missouri cottage food law

Adair County's rules sit on top of Missouri'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>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	Yes

### INDIRECT SALES

No — Under §196.298, sales must be directly to consumers from the producer's home. Events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, and roadside stands are not permitted under this law. Internet/online sales are allowed but only if both the producer and buyer are located in Missouri. Local health departments are explicitly prohibited from regulating the production of food at cottage food operations. A separate Missouri statute (individual stands law) allows sales at events and roadside stands in counties that have adopted it, permitting most other nonperishable foods.

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/missouri/adair-county-discuss>

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