

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Buchanan County

Missouri · Saint Joseph · FIPS 29021 · Population 84,544 ·
Crosodo Index #940*

STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

MISSOURI: BUCHANAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #940* · FIPS 29021 · Saint Joseph

Buchanan County

Population 84,544 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Missouri cottage food: no registration, no inspection, no local health department regulation. Only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes allowed under §196.298. Direct sales only. Online/in-state shipping permitted since 2022.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Buchanan County and the City of Saint Joseph may have home occupation permit requirements. No specific Buchanan County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Buchanan County or City of Saint Joseph planning departments.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Local health departments expressly prohibited from regulating production at cottage food operations under §196.298(3)(1).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Missouri cottage food: no registration, no inspection, no local health department regulation. Only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes allowed under §196.298. Direct sales only. Online/in-state shipping permitted since 2022.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Local health departments expressly prohibited from regulating production at cottage food operations under §196.298(3)(1).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Buchanan County and the City of Saint Joseph may have home occupation permit requirements. No specific Buchanan County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Buchanan County or City of Saint Joseph planning departments.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home permitted; online sales with in-state shipping permitted. No retail or restaurant sales under §196.298.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Buchanan County-specific cottage food code identified. Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Buchanan County (Saint Joseph metro) follows Missouri cottage food law. County govt URL from input data. No county-specific cottage food overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official Missouri Revisor; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.buchanan.mo.us>

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

<https://www.co.buchanan.mo.us>

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

State context — Missouri cottage food law

Buchanan 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.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
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.

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

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/>

Questions?

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

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