

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Butler County

Missouri · Poplar Bluff · FIPS 29023 · Population 41,814 ·  
Crosodo Index #894\*

## 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: BUTLER COUNTY

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# Butler County

Population 41,814 · 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, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes. Direct-to-consumer sales only (including online/in-state shipping as of 2022 amendment). State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No sales cap, no registration, 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 (Butler County does not appear to have county-wide zoning. Poplar Bluff (county seat, one of the larger cities in this batch) may require a home occupation permit under city zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers in Poplar Bluff should verify with 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.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes. Direct-to-consumer sales only (including online/in-state shipping as of 2022 amendment). State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No sales cap, no registration, 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.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Butler County does not appear to have county-wide zoning. Poplar Bluff (county seat, one of the larger cities in this batch) may require a home occupation permit under city zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Producers in Poplar Bluff should verify with city planning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022), and at events/farmers markets. Home pickup permitted. No sales through restaurants or retail stores under §196.298.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by Missouri state cottage food law.

### Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298; Poplar Bluff city zoning ordinance

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Rural southeastern Missouri county (Poplar Bluff is a regional hub). Missouri state baseline governs; no Butler County-specific cottage food ordinance found. State prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.butlercountymo.com>

<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/butler-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Butler County	Carter County	Dunklin 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-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.	No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022), and at events/farmers markets. ...	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home, online (in-state shipping as of 2022), and at events/farmers markets. ...	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	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and he...	Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and he...	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.	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.
POPULATION	42,280	5,299	28,174

## State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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

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