

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cape Girardeau County

Missouri · Jackson · FIPS 29031 · Population 81,703 ·
Crosodo Index #1105*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Cape Girardeau County, Missouri — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not specified in state law.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Missouri cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Missouri home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Missouri label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MISSOURI: CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1105* · FIPS 29031 · Jackson

Cape Girardeau County

Population 81,703 · 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 (Cape Girardeau County and the City of Jackson (county seat) plus Cape Girardeau (city) may have home occupation permit requirements. County govt URL: <https://www.capecounty.us>. No specific county cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food production 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 prohibited from regulating cottage food production under §196.298(3)(1).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Cape Girardeau County and the City of Jackson (county seat) plus Cape Girardeau (city) may have home occupation permit requirements. County govt URL: https://www.capecounty.us . No specific county cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

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

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Cape Girardeau County (southeastern Missouri, near Missouri-Illinois border) follows Missouri cottage food law. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.capecounty.us>

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

<https://www.capecounty.us>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/missouri/cape-girardeau-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cape Girardeau County	Bollinger County	Perry County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law.	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.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Unknown
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home; online sales with in-state shipping permitted. No retail or restaurant sales.	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 and at events/farmers markets. In-state online sales permitted per 2022...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Unknown
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Unknown
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri cottage food: no registration, no inspection, no local health department regulation. Only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/j...	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/ jellies, and dried herbs with a \$50...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.	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.
POPULATION	81,703	10,658	18,970

State context — Missouri cottage food law

Cape Girardeau 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

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

ANNUAL SALES CAP

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/missouri.

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 about Cape Girardeau County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/missouri/cape-girardeau-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/missouri/cape-girardeau-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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