

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Christian County

Missouri · Ozark · FIPS 29043 · Population 89,568 · Crosodo
Index #954*

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: CHRISTIAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #954* · FIPS 29043 · Ozark

Christian County

Population 89,568 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Production must occur at a home kitchen. Under §196.298, only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes are allowed. State law explicitly prohibits local health departments from regulating production at cottage food operations. Online/in-state shipping permitted since 2022 amendment. Direct sales only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law. Standard sanitary practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Christian County and its municipalities (Ozark, Nixa, Battlefield, etc.) may require a home occupation permit or business license for home-based food businesses. No specific Christian County cottage food ordinance was identified. Producers should check with the Christian County Commission or their municipality's planning/zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Missouri law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. No inspection authority exists for cottage food operations under §196.298.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Production must occur at a home kitchen. Under §196.298, only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes are allowed. State law explicitly prohibits local health departments from regulating production at cottage food operations. Online/in-state shipping permitted since 2022 amendment. Direct sales only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law. Standard sanitary practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement beyond standard potable water.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory handwashing infrastructure requirement; good practices expected.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond standard food safety practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Missouri law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. No inspection authority exists for cottage food operations under §196.298.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Christian County and its municipalities (Ozark, Nixa, Battlefield, etc.) may require a home occupation permit or business license for home-based food businesses. No specific Christian County cottage food ordinance was identified. Producers should check with the Christian County Commission or their municipality's planning/zoning office.
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 delivery/shipping, and sales at locations the producer attends are all permitted. Retail store and restaurant sales are prohibited under §196.298.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No county-level cottage food code identified. State law Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 governs and preempts local health department regulation.

RESEARCH NOTES

Christian County is in the Springfield metro area (fast-growing). Missouri's cottage food law is favorable: no registration, no inspection, no local health department authority. However, the allowed foods list is narrow (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs only). No Christian County-specific cottage food rules found. Confidence is medium: state baseline confirmed from official source; county-level zoning/permit rules unverified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.christiancounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Christian County	Taney County	Greene County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law. Standard sanitary practices apply.	No specific MO state rule; standard food safety practices recommended.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home, online sales with in-state delivery/ shipping, and sales at locations the producer attends are all permitted. Retail...	Direct sales permitted. Online sales and in-state shipping added in 2022. No sales at farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, or roads...	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail/ wholesale
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Production must occur at a home kitchen. Under §196.298, only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixe...	Allowed foods limited to: nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and ...	Non-TCS nonperishable baked goods, jams/jellies, and other non-potentially hazardous foods; direct to consumer only; no state license or in...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond standard food safety practices.	Products must be nonperishable. Proper labeling and storage required.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	89,568	56,202	299,188

State context — Missouri cottage food law

Christian 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](#).

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

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

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LOCAL

Advertise here

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

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Your business here

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

crosodo.com/nb/missouri/christian-county-discuss

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