

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Clay County

Missouri · Liberty · FIPS 29047 · Population 253,085 ·
Crosodo Index #455*

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: CLAY COUNTY

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Clay County

Population 253,085 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes allowed. Direct sales only. Local health departments cannot regulate production (§196.298(3)(1)). Online/in-state shipping allowed (2022 amendment). No sales cap. May also have access to individual-stands law in some county areas.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Clay County and Liberty may require home occupation permits or business licenses under local zoning. State law prohibits local health dept regulation but does not address local zoning. Check with Clay County Planning & Zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes allowed. Direct sales only. Local health departments cannot regulate production (§196.298(3)(1)). Online/in-state shipping allowed (2022 amendment). No sales cap. May also have access to individual-stands law in some county areas.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable shelf-stable foods only under primary statute; baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Local health departments expressly prohibited from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1))
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Clay County and Liberty may require home occupation permits or business licenses under local zoning. State law prohibits local health dept regulation but does not address local zoning. Check with Clay County Planning & Zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only: home pickup, delivery, online/in-state shipping (as of 2022 HB 1697). No farmers markets, events, or restaurants under §196.298 (though separate individual-stands law may allow event sales in some counties).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298; Clay County zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Clay County MO follows the Missouri state baseline (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298). Missouri has one of the nation’s most explicit preemption provisions — local health depts cannot regulate cottage food production. Limited food list under primary statute (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs). No sales cap. No Clay County-specific ordinance found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed but no Clay County .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.claycountymo.gov>

<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/clay-county-discuss>

State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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