

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cole County

Missouri · — · FIPS 29051 · Population 76,890 · Crosodo
Index #1107*

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: COLE COUNTY

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Cole County

Population 76,890 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Limited food scope under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes allowed. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment (HB 1697).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified. Good sanitary practices required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (State law (§196.298(3)(1)) expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food operations. However, local business licensing and zoning may still apply. Cole County (Jefferson City is the county seat and state capital) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Cole County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Note: county seat is blank in input data; Cole County seat is Jefferson City.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. No routine inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Limited food scope under §196.298: only nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes allowed. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment (HB 1697).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified. Good sanitary practices required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Nonperishable shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — State law (§196.298(3)(1)) expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food operations. However, local business licensing and zoning may still apply. Cole County (Jefferson City is the county seat and state capital) may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Cole County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Note: county seat is blank in input data; Cole County seat is Jefferson City.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home (residence) only under §196.298. Online in-state shipping allowed per 2022 amendment. No sales through events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, or roadside stands under this statute (though a separate individual-stands law may permit some sales in some counties).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298. No Cole County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cole County is the seat of Missouri’s state government (Jefferson City). Missouri cottage food law (§196.298) has very limited food scope (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs only) but no sales cap. State law prohibits local health department regulation. A separate individual-stands law may provide additional options in some counties. County seat blank in source data but is Jefferson City. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/cole-county-discuss>

State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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