

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Jefferson County

Missouri · Hillsboro · FIPS 29099 · Population 226,984 ·  
Crosodo Index #653\*

## STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

HIGH

## 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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #653\* · FIPS 29099 · Hillsboro

# Jefferson County

Population 226,984 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **HIGH**

### 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/jellies, and dried herbs. Jefferson County requires a home occupation permit per Section 400.230 of the Jefferson County Code of Ordinances. The business must be secondary to residential use. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)).)

**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?**

Yes (Jefferson County Code of Ordinances Section 400.230 requires a Home Occupation Permit. Requirements include: applicant must reside at the location; no more than one on-premises employee (besides residents); home occupation cannot exceed 1/3 of gross floor area; no tandem axle vehicle or outdoor storage. Application must be submitted to Jefferson County Planning Division. Note: Arnold, Herculaneum, and Festus (cities within Jefferson County) have their own rules.)

**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. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs. Jefferson County requires a home occupation permit per Section 400.230 of the Jefferson County Code of Ordinances. The business must be secondary to residential use. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)).
<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

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Jefferson County Code of Ordinances Section 400.230 requires a Home Occupation Permit. Requirements include: applicant must reside at the location; no more than one on-premises employee (besides residents); home occupation cannot exceed 1/3 of gross floor area; no tandem axle vehicle or outdoor storage. Application must be submitted to Jefferson County Planning Division. Note: Arnold, Herculaneum, and Festus (cities within Jefferson County) have their own rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	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 amendment, HB 1697), and at events/farmers markets. Home pickup permitted. Delivery to customers allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Jefferson County Home Occupation Permit allows up to 1 non-resident on-premises employee. Missouri state law does not set an employee cap for cottage food operations.

## Relevant county code

Jefferson County Code of Ordinances Section 400.230 (Home Occupation); Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

### RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence: Jefferson County home occupation permit application found directly on jeffcomo.gov with specific requirements from Section 400.230. Missouri state cottage food baseline confirmed. Note: CityRuleLookup references MO Rev. Stat. §196.277 for the \$50,000 cap, while the state baseline cites §196.298 — these may reflect different tracks of Missouri’s cottage food framework. The primary statute §196.298 restricts to baked goods, jams/jellies, and dried herbs for in-home kitchen operations; a broader \$50,000 framework may apply at events/farmers markets under separate county-specific rules. Cities within Jefferson County (Arnold, Herculaneum, Festus) have separate rules.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jeffcomo.gov>

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

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

<https://www.jeffcomo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3070/Home-Occupation-Permit-Application-PDF>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/jefferson-county-mo>

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

## State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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

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