

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Montgomery County

Missouri · Montgomery City · FIPS 29139 · Population 11,511 ·  
Crosodo Index #1436\*

## STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1436\* · FIPS 29139 · Montgomery City

# Montgomery County

Population 11,511 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Missouri Cottage Law is narrow: only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/mixes are permitted. All other foods require food establishment licensing. Direct sales only; no consignment or wholesale. Online/in-state shipping allowed since 2022 amendment. No sales cap. Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food production per §196.298(3)(1).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Montgomery County typically requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Business must be secondary to residential use. Common conditions: no on-site employees beyond household members, no external signage, limited customer visits, no hazardous materials. Missouri Cottage Law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating production, but zoning/home occupation permits are a separate local requirement. Many rural Missouri counties have limited formal zoning in unincorporated areas; verify with the Montgomery City county courthouse.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspections under cottage law. Health departments may investigate foodborne illness reports.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Missouri Cottage Law is narrow: only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/mixes are permitted. All other foods require food establishment licensing. Direct sales only; no consignment or wholesale. Online/in-state shipping allowed since 2022 amendment. No sales cap. Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food production per §196.298(3)(1).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water supply required.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable storage for baked goods, jams, jellies, dried herbs.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspections under cottage law. Health departments may investigate foodborne illness reports.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Yes — Montgomery County typically requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Business must be secondary to residential use. Common conditions: no on-site employees beyond household members, no external signage, limited customer visits, no hazardous materials. Missouri Cottage Law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating production, but zoning/home occupation permits are a separate local requirement. Many rural Missouri counties have limited formal zoning in unincorporated areas; verify with the Montgomery City county courthouse.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	No
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales at home and in-state delivery. Farmers markets, online sales with in-state delivery allowed since 2022. No interstate sales.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Typically household members only per home occupation permit conditions.

### Relevant county code

Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance (home occupations, if applicable); Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Missouri’s cottage food law (§196.298) is narrow (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs only) with no sales cap and no registration or inspection required. Local health departments are explicitly prohibited from regulating cottage food production. Montgomery County is a largely rural county; many unincorporated areas may lack formal zoning, but where residential zoning exists a home occupation permit is typically required as in most Missouri counties. The county seat is Montgomery City. Defaulted to state baseline with medium confidence due to limited county-specific zoning data found in research. Producers should verify directly with the Montgomery County Courthouse or planning/zoning office for current home occupation permit requirements.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/pdf/home-based-kitchen-food-prod-guidance.pdf>
- <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/montgomery-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Montgomery County	Audrain County	Callaway County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	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	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales at home and in-state delivery. Farmers markets, online sales with in-state delivery allowed since 2022. No interstate 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, online (in-state shipping as of 2022), and at events/farmers markets. ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri Cottage Law is narrow: only nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs/mixes are permitted. All other foods r...	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 and jellies, and dried herbs and he...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for baked goods, jams, jellies, dried herbs.	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	11,421	24,873	44,517

## State context — Missouri cottage food law

Montgomery 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.

---

<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.

---

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

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

---