

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Charles County

Missouri · Saint Charles · FIPS 29183 · Population 406,262 ·
Crosodo Index #2174*

STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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: ST. CHARLES COUNTY

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St. Charles County

Population 406,262 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes. No registration, permit, or inspection required at state level. Direct sales only (no farmers markets, restaurants, or retail stores under §196.298). Missouri prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit for home-based businesses from Planning and Zoning Division.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit from Planning and Zoning Division (201 N. Second St., Suite 420, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-7335; Planning@sccmo.org). Business Occupancy Permit also required from Building Division. If operation will prepare or serve food, must also contact Public Health Department (1650 Boone’s Lick, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-1800). Note: Missouri state law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production itself, but local zoning/business licensing compliance is still required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection permitted at state or local level per §196.298(3)(1).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs/herb mixes. No registration, permit, or inspection required at state level. Direct sales only (no farmers markets, restaurants, or retail stores under §196.298). Missouri prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit for home-based businesses from Planning and Zoning Division.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-perishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, dried herbs only. No TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No inspection permitted at state or local level per §196.298(3)(1).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — St. Charles County requires a Home Occupation Permit from Planning and Zoning Division (201 N. Second St., Suite 420, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-7335; Planning@sccmo.org). Business Occupancy Permit also required from Building Division. If operation will prepare or serve food, must also contact Public Health Department (1650 Boone’s Lick, St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-949-1800). Note: Missouri state law prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production itself, but local zoning/business licensing compliance is still required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only from home under §196.298 (no farmers markets, events, restaurants, or retail stores). Online/in-state shipping permitted per 2022 amendment (HB 1697). Missouri’s separate individual-stands law may allow broader sales in some counties.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules apply.

Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 (state cottage food); St. Charles County Home Occupation Permit (Planning and Zoning).

RESEARCH NOTES

St. Charles County Home Occupation Permit requirement confirmed from official sccmo.org sources (Home Occupation Permit page and FAQ). Missouri cottage food law (§196.298) well-documented from state baseline — very limited food scope (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs) and direct sales only from home, but online/shipping added in 2022. Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food production per §196.298(3)(1). However, county still requires Home Occupation Permit and Business Occupancy Permit for home-based businesses. Confidence high: both state law and county permit requirement confirmed from .gov sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.sccmo.org>
- <https://www.sccmo.org/1611/Home-Occupation-Permit>
- <https://sccmo.org/FAQ.aspx?QID=224>
- <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/st-charles-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	St. Charles County	St. Louis County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.	No specific state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only from home under §196.298 (no farmers markets, events, restaurants, or retail stores). Online/in-state shipping permitted ...	Under state cottage food law, direct-to-consumer sales at the individual's home are the only authorized sale location under §196.298. Custo...	Direct-to-consumer at home and via online/in-state shipping. Farmers markets, events, restaurants, retail stores, roadside stands prohibite...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pie...	State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's ...	Missouri primary statute (§196.298) allows only: nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-perishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, dried herbs only. No TCS foods.	State guidance recommends proper temperature, pest-free storage; no county-specific overlay.	Only baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs under §196.298. All other food types prohibited.
POPULATION	406,262	999,703	104,858

State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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