

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Louis County

Missouri · Clayton · FIPS 29189 · Population 999,703 ·
Crosodo Index #1370*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

St. Louis County, Missouri — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Missouri cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Missouri home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Missouri label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MISSOURI: ST. LOUIS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1370* · FIPS 29189 · Clayton

St. Louis County

Population 999,703 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's home kitchen. St. Louis County zoning defines home occupations as domestic activities carried on solely by resident family members with no services offered to the general public and no stock in trade on premises. The county definition creates a tension with cottage food sales — the practical resolution is that cottage food production itself is permissible but a home occupation permit is required for business activity in unincorporated areas.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (In unincorporated St. Louis County, any business activity from a residence requires compliance with the Zoning Code definition of Home Occupation. The definition requires the activity be carried on solely by resident family members, with no services to the general public on premises, no stock in trade, no commercial equipment beyond household use, and no exterior signage. A permit is required through County Zoning Review (314-615-2525 or 314-615-7814). Note: St. Louis County is highly fragmented — many residents live in incorporated municipalities (Kirkwood, Florissant, Chesterfield, etc.) each with their own rules. County-level rules apply only in unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law §196.298(3)(1) explicitly prohibits the county health department from inspecting or regulating cottage food production operations. No routine or complaint-triggered inspections by county health.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's home kitchen. St. Louis County zoning defines home occupations as domestic activities carried on solely by resident family members with no services offered to the general public and no stock in trade on premises. The county definition creates a tension with cottage food sales — the practical resolution is that cottage food production itself is permissible but a home occupation permit is required for business activity in unincorporated areas.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

State guidance (DHSS) recommends potable water from approved source; no county-specific overlay found.

HANDWASHING

State guidance recommends adequate handwashing facilities; no county-specific overlay.

FOOD STORAGE

State guidance recommends proper temperature, pest-free storage; no county-specific overlay.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law §196.298(3)(1) explicitly prohibits the county health department from inspecting or regulating cottage food production operations. No routine or complaint-triggered inspections by county health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — In unincorporated St. Louis County, any business activity from a residence requires compliance with the Zoning Code definition of Home Occupation. The definition requires the activity be carried on solely by resident family members, with no services to the general public on premises, no stock in trade, no commercial equipment beyond household use, and no exterior signage. A permit is required through County Zoning Review (314-615-2525 or 314-615-7814). Note: St. Louis County is highly fragmented — many residents live in incorporated municipalities (Kirkwood, Florissant, Chesterfield, etc.) each with their own rules. County-level rules apply only in unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under state cottage food law, direct-to-consumer sales at the individual's home are the only authorized sale location under §196.298. Customer visits to pick up orders must not generate commercial-level traffic per county home occupation rules. Farmers market and roadside stand sales are NOT permitted under §196.298 (only home sales), though a separate Missouri statute allows events/markets in some counties.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Home occupation definition restricts to resident family members only — no non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

St. Louis County Zoning Code, Home Occupation definition; Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

RESEARCH NOTES

St. Louis County is Missouri's most populous county (pop. ~1M) but is heavily fragmented into 88+ municipalities and significant unincorporated territory. State law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) explicitly pre-empts local regulation of cottage food production and prohibits county health departments from regulating or inspecting these operations. The county zoning definition of home occupation (domestic activity by resident family only, no public services on premises, no exterior signage) technically restricts commercial activity but does not override the state preemption on food production itself. A home occupation permit is required in unincorporated areas via County Zoning Review. No county-specific cottage food guidance page was found — state baseline applies with high confidence. CityRuleLookup (verified March 2026) corroborates the home occupation permit requirement. The St. Louis City cottage food waiver was abolished (city waivers no longer required), but this county (not city) entry follows county rules only. The Missouri state law's \$50,000/year cap under §196.298 and narrower food scope (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs only at home) remain the key constraints.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov>

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/transportation-and-public-works/commercial-building/pw-commercial-guides/business-information/can-i-operate-a-small-business-out-of-my-home/>

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

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

https://library.municode.com/mo/st._louis_county/codes/code_of_ordinances

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/missouri/st-louis-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	St. Louis County	St. Charles County	St. Louis city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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 sales only from home under §196.298 (no farmers markets, events, restaurants, or retail stores). Online/in-state shipping permitted ...	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail/wholesale
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's ...	Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pie...	Non-TCS nonperishable foods; direct to consumer only; no state license or inspection; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	State guidance recommends proper temperature, pest-free storage; no county-specific overlay.	Non-perishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, dried herbs only. No TCS foods.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	999,703	406,262	298,018

State context — Missouri cottage food law

St. Louis 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

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/missouri.

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 about St. Louis County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/missouri/st-louis-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in St. Louis County, Missouri. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/missouri/st-louis-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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