

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Stoddard County

Missouri · Bloomfield · FIPS 29207 · Population 28,438 ·  
Crosodo Index #831\*

## STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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: STODDARD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #831\* · FIPS 29207 · Bloomfield

# Stoddard County

Population 28,438 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **MEDIUM**

## 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 with a \$50,000 annual gross income cap and direct-to-consumer sales only. Internet sales are prohibited under the statute. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No county-specific home occupation permit ordinance was identified for unincorporated Stoddard County.)

**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?**

Unknown (No county-level home occupation permit ordinance identified for unincorporated Stoddard County. Operators in Bloomfield, Dexter, or Sikeston (partial) should check applicable city codes separately.)

**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 with a \$50,000 annual gross income cap and direct-to-consumer sales only. Internet sales are prohibited under the statute. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No county-specific home occupation permit ordinance was identified for unincorporated Stoddard County.
<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

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	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.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Unknown — No county-level home occupation permit ordinance identified for unincorporated Stoddard County. Operators in Bloomfield, Dexter, or Sikeston (partial) should check applicable city codes separately.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Unknown

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Unknown
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home and at events/ farmers markets. In-state online sales permitted per 2022 amendment (HB 1697). Home pickup and delivery to customers allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state cap on employees for cottage food operations under §196.298.

**Relevant county code**

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

**RESEARCH NOTES**

State baseline applied. No county-specific home occupation zoning ordinance found for unincorporated Stoddard County. Missouri §196.298 controls. Medium confidence due to absence of county-specific research.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

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

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

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

## State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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

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