

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Taney County

Missouri · Forsyth · FIPS 29213 · Population 56,202 ·
Crosodo Index #897*

STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 (amended 2022 by HB 1697)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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: TANEY COUNTY

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Taney County

Population 56,202 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 (amended 2022 by HB 1697) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Allowed foods limited to: nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online/in-state shipping permitted since 2022 amendment. Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food operations.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific MO state rule; standard food safety practices recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Taney County (Branson tourism area) may have local home occupation zoning provisions for home-based businesses. Contact Taney County government in Forsyth. MO statute prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Local health departments prohibited by §196.298(3)(1) from regulating production. DHSS may act on severe complaints.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Allowed foods limited to: nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pies), canned jams and jellies, and dried herbs and herb mixes. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online/in-state shipping permitted since 2022 amendment. Local health departments prohibited from regulating cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific MO state rule; standard food safety practices recommended.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement; recommended best practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be nonperishable. Proper labeling and storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Local health departments prohibited by §196.298(3)(1) from regulating production. DHSS may act on severe complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Taney County (Branson tourism area) may have local home occupation zoning provisions for home-based businesses. Contact Taney County government in Forsyth. MO statute prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted. Online sales and in-state shipping added in 2022. No sales at farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, or roadside stands under §196.298 (though a separate individual-stands law may apply in some counties).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in MO statute.

Relevant county code

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298; no Taney County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Taney County includes Branson tourism area. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline applies: limited food scope (baked goods, jams/jellies, dried herbs only) under primary statute §196.298. A separate Missouri individual-stands law (available in some counties) may allow broader foods at events and roadside stands. MO cottage food law notable for explicit prohibition on local health department regulation. State URL may return 404; MO Revisor URL confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<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/taney-county-discuss>

State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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