

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bedford County

Tennessee · Shelbyville · FIPS 47003 · Population 50,533 ·
Crosodo Index #456*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

STATE TIER

Good

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.

TENNESSEE: BEDFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #456* · FIPS 47003 · Shelbyville

Bedford County

Population 50,533 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence is allowed. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except for DOH foodborne illness investigations. Broad exemption covering all non-TCS homemade foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No specific Bedford County cottage food ordinances found. City of Shelbyville may require business license for home-based food businesses. Recommend verifying with Bedford County and City of Shelbyville planning departments.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. DOH may investigate foodborne illness. No registration or permit required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence is allowed. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except for DOH foodborne illness investigations. Broad exemption covering all non-TCS homemade foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Not explicitly required by state cottage food law.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS (not requiring temperature control for safety).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. DOH may investigate foodborne illness. No registration or permit required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No specific Bedford County cottage food ordinances found. City of Shelbyville may require business license for home-based food businesses. Recommend verifying with Bedford County and City of Shelbyville planning departments.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No restrictions specified in state law. All non-TCS homemade food sales broadly permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; Public Chapter No. 862 (SB 693/HB 813, eff. July 1, 2022)

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee's Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales — no licensing, permits, inspections, or labeling requirements. Bedford County is in middle Tennessee, known for the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. No county-specific rules found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bedfordcounty.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/bedford-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bedford County	Coffee County	Rutherford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state law.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	No restrictions specified in state law. All non-TCS homemade food sales broadly permitted.	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted under TN Food Freedom Act. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allo...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence is allowed. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements exc...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, ...	Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS (not requiring temperature control for safety).	Non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.	Sanitary storage at residence
POPULATION	50,533	58,080	343,727

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Bedford County's rules sit on top of Tennessee's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — The Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter 862, effective July 1, 2022) broadly exempts production and sale of non-TCS homemade food items from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws. Sales may be direct to consumer in person or remotely. Local government ordinances restricting homemade food sales are preempted. Note: Prior to the 2022 Food Freedom Act, the older domestic kitchen regulations (TDA Chapter 0080-4-11) required a permit, inspection, and food safety certification, and limited sales to 100 units/week; the Food Freedom Act supersedes these requirements for qualifying non-TCS homemade foods.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Tennessee cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2021/title-53/chapter-8/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/tennessee/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Bedford County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/bedford-county-discuss>

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

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Advertise here — Supplies

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

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LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Bedford County, Tennessee. 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/bedford-county-discuss

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