

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bradley County

Tennessee · Cleveland · FIPS 47011 · Population 108,859 ·
Crosodo Index #447*

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: BRADLEY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #447* · FIPS 47011 · Cleveland

Bradley County

Population 108,859 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Tennessee’s Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements (except DOH foodborne illness investigations). Any non-TCS food produced at a private residence is allowed. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in the Food Freedom Act.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Bradley County and the City of Cleveland may have home occupation zoning requirements. Tennessee state law preempts local regulation of cottage food under the Food Freedom Act, but local home occupation/zoning rules may still apply for business operation. No specific Bradley County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. DOH may investigate for foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Tennessee’s Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements (except DOH foodborne illness investigations). Any non-TCS food produced at a private residence is allowed. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in the Food Freedom Act.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices recommended but not legally required under the Food Freedom Act.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. TCS foods (requiring time/temperature control for safety) are not covered and require standard food establishment licensing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections. DOH may investigate for foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Bradley County and the City of Cleveland may have home occupation zoning requirements. Tennessee state law preempts local regulation of cottage food under the Food Freedom Act, but local home occupation/zoning rules may still apply for business operation. No specific Bradley County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All sales channels permitted for non-TCS foods: direct-to-consumer, online, wholesale, retail, delivery. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Bradley County code section identified. State law governs: Tenn. Code §53-1-125.

RESEARCH NOTES

Bradley County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Tennessee’s Food Freedom Act (2022) is one of the most permissive frameworks in the country — no registration, no cap, no inspection, broad food types. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/bradley-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bradley County	Hamilton County	McMinn County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction in the Food Freedom Act.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific TN state or McMinn County rule.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	All sales channels permitted for non-TCS foods: direct-to-consumer, online, wholesale, retail, delivery. No sales cap.	All sales channels allowed within Tennessee: direct-to-consumer, farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-s...	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee’s Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling req...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) allows any non-TCS homemade food from private residence without p...	All non-TCS homemade foods from producer’s private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. TCS foods (requiring time/temperature control for safety) are not covered and require standard food establishment licen...	Non-TCS products only. No foods requiring time/temperature control for safety.	Products must be non-TCS.
POPULATION	108,859	367,193	53,532

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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