

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gibson County

Tennessee · Trenton · FIPS 47053 · Population 50,455 ·
Crosodo Index #478*

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: GIBSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #478* · FIPS 47053 · Trenton

Gibson County

Population 50,455 · 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.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No specific Gibson County cottage food ordinances found. City of Trenton and other municipalities within Gibson County may have local business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Gibson County and relevant municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. DOH may investigate foodborne illness only.)

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.
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.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. DOH may investigate foodborne illness only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No specific Gibson County cottage food ordinances found. City of Trenton and other municipalities within Gibson County may have local business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Gibson County and relevant municipality.
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 (eff. July 1, 2022)

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee's Food Freedom Act broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. Gibson County is in west Tennessee. No county-specific rules found.

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/gibson-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gibson County	Madison County	Carroll County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No state restriction for Tennessee cottage food operations.	No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.
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.	Direct and indirect sales allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Online sales, home pickup, farmers markets, and events all permitted. N...	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F...
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 (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No license, permi...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS.	Non-TCS homemade foods only; store to prevent contamination.	No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	50,455	98,644	28,381

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Gibson 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	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 Gibson County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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