

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Tennessee · Dandridge · FIPS 47089 · Population 55,017 ·
Crosodo Index #835*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022)

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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #835* · FIPS 47089 · Dandridge

Jefferson County

Population 55,017 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (All non-TCS homemade foods from producer’s private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific TN state or Jefferson County rule.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (TN Food Freedom Act preempts local food-related licensing. Jefferson County (Dandridge, one of oldest towns in TN) may have home occupation zoning provisions. Contact Jefferson County government.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Only DOH may investigate foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — All non-TCS homemade foods from producer’s private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific TN state or Jefferson County rule.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No formal requirement; recommended best practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Only DOH may investigate foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — TN Food Freedom Act preempts local food-related licensing. Jefferson County (Dandridge, one of oldest towns in TN) may have home occupation zoning provisions. Contact Jefferson County government.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in TN statute.

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; no Jefferson County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County is between Knoxville and the Smoky Mountains area. TN Food Freedom Act applies.
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/jefferson-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	Hamblen County	Sevier County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific TN state or Jefferson County rule.	No specific state prohibition	No state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.	Direct and indirect sales allowed. No restrictions on delivery, farmers markets, online, or retail under the Food Freedom Act.	Direct and indirect sales allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Farmers markets, online sales, home pickup, and events all permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	All non-TCS homemade foods from producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.	Tennessee Food Freedom Act broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production from a private residence. No licensing, permit, inspection,...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, registration, or i...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage recommended	Non-TCS homemade foods only.
POPULATION	55,017	64,531	98,455

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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