

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Montgomery County

Tennessee · Clarksville · FIPS 47125 · Population 222,305 ·
Crosodo Index #438*

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: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #438* · FIPS 47125 · Clarksville

Montgomery County

Population 222,305 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, registration, or labeling requirements except for standard DOH foodborne illness investigation authority. No sales cap. Producers may sell any non-TCS food from their private residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act for cottage food operations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Tennessee preempts local government restrictions on cottage food under the Food Freedom Act. However, Montgomery County and City of Clarksville may have general home occupation zoning requirements for business operations from residences that may apply to higher-volume or visible operations. Contact Montgomery County Planning or Clarksville Planning Department for current home occupation permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Tennessee DOH may investigate for foodborne illness complaints. No routine inspections or pre-sale inspections required under Food Freedom Act.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, registration, or labeling requirements except for standard DOH foodborne illness investigation authority. No sales cap. Producers may sell any non-TCS food from their private residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory handwashing requirement for cottage food under the Food Freedom Act.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory food storage requirement under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Tennessee DOH may investigate for foodborne illness complaints. No routine inspections or pre-sale inspections required under Food Freedom Act.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Tennessee preempts local government restrictions on cottage food under the Food Freedom Act. However, Montgomery County and City of Clarksville may have general home occupation zoning requirements for business operations from residences that may apply to higher-volume or visible operations. Contact Montgomery County Planning or Clarksville Planning Department for current home occupation permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Tennessee Food Freedom Act imposes no restrictions on sales channels. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and event sales all permitted for non-TCS foods. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee restrictions in Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Home occupation zoning may apply restrictions on non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act); Montgomery County/City of Clarksville zoning ordinances (contact for home occupation details)

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) is one of the most permissive frameworks nationally: no registration, no inspection, no labeling, no sales cap for non-TCS foods. Montgomery County (county seat: Clarksville) has large military population (Fort Campbell). No county-specific URLs provided. No county-level overrides found. State law preempts most local restrictions on cottage food. General home occupation zoning may still apply for business registration/licensing purposes.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.montgomerycounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Montgomery County	Robertson County	Dickson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act for cottage food operations.	Not specified in state law.	No specific TN state or Dickson County rule.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Tennessee Food Freedom Act imposes no restrictions on sales channels. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and event sales all p...	Sales at farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. TCS foods in-person direct sales only. Sa...	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, r...	Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. 2025 amendment allows most TCS foods but must be ...	All non-TCS homemade foods from producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory food storage requirement under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.	TCS foods require appropriate temperature controls.	Products must be non-TCS.
POPULATION	222,305	73,297	54,563

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

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

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Montgomery 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/montgomery-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise