

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Polk County

Tennessee · Benton · FIPS 47139 · Population 18,338 ·
Crosodo Index #3024*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
—	Good	—	MEDIUM	

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: POLK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3024* · FIPS 47139 · Benton

Polk County

Population 18,338 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT —

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

RESEARCH NOTES

No Polk County-specific cottage food or zoning rules found in 1-2 searches. Defaulting to Tennessee state baseline (Food Freedom Act, Tenn. Code §53-1-125).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Polk County	Monroe County	Bradley County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	—	—	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	—	—	No
PETS ALLOWED	—	—	No specific state restriction in the Food Freedom Act.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	—	—	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	—	—	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	—	—	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	—	—	All sales channels permitted for non-TCS foods: direct-to-consumer, online, wholesale, retail, delivery. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	—	—	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	—	—	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	Tennessee’s Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling req...
FOOD STORAGE	—	—	Non-TCS foods only. TCS foods (requiring time/temperature control for safety) are not covered and require standard food establishment licen...
POPULATION	17,620	46,489	108,859

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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