

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Robertson County

Tennessee · Springfield · FIPS 47147 · Population 73,297 ·
Crosodo Index #1877*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, effective July 1, 2022; 2025 amendment expands to include certain TCS foods)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	—	MEDIUM	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: ROBERTSON COUNTY

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Robertson County

Population 73,297 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, effective July 1, 2022; 2025 amendment expands to include certain TCS foods) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. 2025 amendment allows most TCS foods but must be sold in-person or by producer’s agent. Cannot use commercial kitchen.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Tennessee Food Freedom Act removes state-level licensing and permit requirements. Local zoning may apply. No Robertson County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (TDA or TDH may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. 2025 amendment allows most TCS foods but must be sold in-person or by producer’s agent. Cannot use commercial kitchen.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law.
WATER SUPPLY	Residential potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Good sanitary practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	TCS foods require appropriate temperature controls.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — TDA or TDH may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Tennessee Food Freedom Act removes state-level licensing and permit requirements. Local zoning may apply. No Robertson County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales at farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. TCS foods in-person direct sales only. Sales within Tennessee only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee restriction in state law.

Relevant county code

No Robertson County-specific cottage food code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Robertson County follows Tennessee’s Food Freedom Act. No county-specific overrides found.
Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/consumers/food-safety/tennessee-food-freedom-act.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Robertson County	Sumner County	Montgomery County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law.	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act for cottage food operations.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales at farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. TCS foods in-person direct sales only. Sa...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act imposes no restrictions on sales channels for non-TCS foods. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act imposes no restrictions on sales channels. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and event sales all p...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must be produced at a private residence. Non-TCS foods allowed without license or permit. 2025 amendment allows most TCS foods but must be ...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, r...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, r...
FOOD STORAGE	TCS foods require appropriate temperature controls.	No specific statutory storage requirement for non-TCS foods under Food Freedom Act.	No specific statutory food storage requirement under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.
POPULATION	73,297	196,845	222,305

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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