

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Sumner County

Tennessee · Gallatin · FIPS 47165 · Population 196,845 ·  
Crosodo Index #536\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## 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: SUMNER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #536\* · FIPS 47165 · Gallatin

# Sumner County

Population 196,845 · 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. No sales cap. Sumner County is a growing suburban county north of Nashville.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Tennessee Food Freedom Act preempts local government restrictions on cottage food. Sumner County and City of Gallatin may have general home occupation zoning requirements for business registration. Contact Sumner County Planning Commission (sumnercountyttn.gov) or relevant municipal planning office.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Tennessee DOH may investigate for foodborne illness complaints. No routine inspections under Food Freedom Act.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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. No sales cap. Sumner County is a growing suburban county north of Nashville.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific statutory handwashing requirement for cottage food.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory storage requirement for non-TCS foods under Food Freedom Act.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Tennessee DOH may investigate for foodborne illness complaints. No routine inspections under Food Freedom Act.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Tennessee Food Freedom Act preempts local government restrictions on cottage food. Sumner County and City of Gallatin may have general home occupation zoning requirements for business registration. Contact Sumner County Planning Commission (sumnercountyttn.gov) or relevant municipal planning office.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	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 for non-TCS foods. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and events all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee restrictions in Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Home occupation zoning may apply.

### Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act); Sumner County zoning ordinances

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee state baseline applies. Sumner County (county seat: Gallatin) is a fast-growing suburban county north of Nashville in the Nashville metro area. Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) is one of the most permissive frameworks nationally. No county-specific URLs or overrides found.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sumnercountyttn.gov>

<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/sumner-county-discuss>

## State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Sumner 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b> Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> 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.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Tennessee cottage food law report](#).

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Sumner County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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