

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Unicoi County

Tennessee · Erwin · FIPS 47171 · Population 17,872 · Crosodo
Index #2999*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Unicoi County, Tennessee — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION

—

PETS

—

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Tennessee cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Tennessee home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Tennessee label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

TENNESSEE: UNICOI COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2999* · FIPS 47171 · Erwin

Unicoi County

Population 17,872 · 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 rulesON-SITE CUSTOMER
PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

RESEARCH NOTES

No Unicoi 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<https://www.unicoicounty.gov>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/unicoi-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Unicoi County	Carter County	Greene County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	—	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	—	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	—	No specific TN state or Carter County rule.	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	—	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	—	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	—	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	—	No restrictions on sales channels. Direct, online, delivery, pickup, and indirect sales all permitted.	Indirect sales allowed at markets, online sales permitted; delivery by producer permitted in-state
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	—	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	—	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	Broad exemption for all non-TCS homemade foods produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap under...	No sales cap. No registration required. No inspection required. All non-TCS homemade foods allowed. Indirect sales allowed (farmers markets...
FOOD STORAGE	—	Products must be non-TCS. No formal storage rules under TN Food Freedom Act.	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products
POPULATION	17,845	56,315	70,399

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Unicoi 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/tennessee.

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 about Unicoi County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/unicoi-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 Unicoi 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 on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/unicoi-county-discuss

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