

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Wilson County

Tennessee · Lebanon · FIPS 47189 · Population 149,096 ·  
Crosodo Index #969\*

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: WILSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #969\* · FIPS 47189 · Lebanon

# Wilson County

Population 149,096 · 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 (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except DOH foodborne illness investigations. No sales cap. No registration required. Sales permitted anywhere in Tennessee.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Wilson County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (TDA may investigate for foodborne illness. No routine inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements except DOH foodborne illness investigations. No sales cap. No registration required. Sales permitted anywhere in Tennessee.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific state requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — TDA may investigate for foodborne illness. No routine inspection.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Wilson County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

## Relevant county code

Wilson County Zoning Ordinance; Tenn. Code §53-1-125

### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) is one of the more permissive cottage food laws. No Wilson County-specific cottage food code identified.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/wilson-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Wilson County	Sumner County	Rutherford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.	No explicit pet restrictions under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.	Tennessee Food Freedom Act imposes no restrictions on sales channels for non-TCS foods. Home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, online, and...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, insp...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, r...	Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.	No specific statutory storage requirement for non-TCS foods under Food Freedom Act.	Sanitary storage at residence
POPULATION	149,096	196,845	343,727

## State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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

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

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