

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cameron County

Texas · Brownsville · FIPS 48061 · Population 421,854 ·
Crosodo Index #883*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

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.

TEXAS: CAMERON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #883* · FIPS 48061 · Brownsville

Cameron County

Population 421,854 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream/frozen custard/popsicles, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Cameron County has unincorporated areas and incorporated cities (Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen area). Each municipality has its own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires cottage food operations to comply with local home-based business rules. Operators should verify with Cameron County and local city whether home occupation permit required. Brownsville: contact City of Brownsville Planning for home occupation requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Allowed: almost all non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, pickles, dried herbs, roasted coffee, granola, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable products, dried meats. Prohibited: meat products, poultry, seafood, ice/ice cream/frozen custard/popsicles, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, raw milk. Health departments cannot inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No inspection permitted except to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Cameron County has unincorporated areas and incorporated cities (Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen area). Each municipality has its own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires cottage food operations to comply with local home-based business rules. Operators should verify with Cameron County and local city whether home occupation permit required. Brownsville: contact City of Brownsville Planning for home occupation requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales allowed. Online sales and mail delivery permitted. Products may be sold at direct sales only channels (not wholesale to distributors/retailers per primary statute). SB 541 (2025) added 'cottage food vendor' intermediary pathway.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955 (local home-based business compliance); Cameron County and municipal zoning codes.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas state cottage food law is well-documented. \$150,000 cap (raised from \$50,000 by SB 541, 2025). No permit or registration required. Cameron County is a border county with large population; municipalities (Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Texas Statute §559.955 requires compliance with local home-based business ordinances. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Cameron County-specific local ordinances not directly researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cameroncountytexas.gov>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

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

State context — Texas cottage food law

Cameron County’s rules sit on top of Texas’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.	ANNUAL SALES CAP 150000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY No

INDIRECT SALES
 Limited (see notes) — Sales must be made directly to consumers or to a 'cottage food vendor' (a new category created by SB 541 in 2025 – a person with a contractual relationship who sells on behalf of the cottage food operation to consumers in-state). Cottage food products may not be sold as ingredients to a food service establishment. No retail grocery store or wholesale sales permitted under the pre-2025 framework; SB 541 (2025) adds the cottage food vendor intermediary option. Products must be delivered to consumer or vendor at point of sale or consumer-designated location.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

- State statute: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>
 - State dept cottage food page: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>
 - Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/texas/>
-

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/cameron-county-discuss>
