

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cherokee County

Texas · Rusk · FIPS 48073 · Population 50,824 · Crosodo
Index #489*

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: CHEROKEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #489* · FIPS 48073 · Rusk

Cherokee County

Population 50,824 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce in home kitchen. All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (as of SB 541, 2025). No meat/poultry/seafood, ice/ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, or raw milk products.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No specific Cherokee County cottage food ordinances found. City of Rusk and other municipalities within Cherokee County have their own zoning codes. Home occupation permits may be required by local zoning. Recommend verifying with Cherokee County and City of Rusk planning departments.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No license, inspection, or registration required. DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce in home kitchen. All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (as of SB 541, 2025). No meat/poultry/seafood, ice/ice cream, low-acid canned goods, CBD/THC products, or raw milk products.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; not specifically required by state cottage food law.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage implied.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No license, inspection, or registration required. DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No specific Cherokee County cottage food ordinances found. City of Rusk and other municipalities within Cherokee County have their own zoning codes. Home occupation permits may be required by local zoning. Recommend verifying with Cherokee County and City of Rusk planning departments.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed directly to consumers in Texas, online, at farmers markets, through cottage food vendors (SB 541, 2025), and by mail/delivery within Texas.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; SB 541 (2025)

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas has a highly permissive cottage food law. No Cherokee County-specific restrictions found. County seat is Rusk; county is a rural East Texas county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

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

State context — Texas cottage food law

Cherokee 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.	150000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	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/>
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Questions?

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

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