

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Johnson County

Texas · Cleburne · FIPS 48251 · Population 182,690 · Crosodo
Index #498*

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: JOHNSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #498* · FIPS 48251 · Cleburne

Johnson County

Population 182,690 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. No wholesale. Health departments may not regulate cottage food operations; DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Texas state law does not require permits for cottage food; health departments have no authority to regulate. Johnson County (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation permit requirements under county zoning. County URLs were blank in input; no specific county-level ordinance verified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections. Health authority may act only upon immediate and serious threat to human life.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration or inspection required. No wholesale. Health departments may not regulate cottage food operations; DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for permitted non-TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections. Health authority may act only upon immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Texas state law does not require permits for cottage food; health departments have no authority to regulate. Johnson County (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation permit requirements under county zoning. County URLs were blank in input; no specific county-level ordinance verified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online sales, in-state delivery, and direct sales from home, farmers markets, and roadside stands permitted. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas has strong cottage food protections with no registration or inspection requirements. \$150,000 sales cap effective 2025 per SB 541. Johnson County has no verified county-level cottage food rules beyond state baseline. County URLs were blank in input. Texas cottage food law broadly prohibits local health department regulation of cottage food operations.

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/johnson-county-discuss>

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

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