

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Starr County

Texas · Rio Grande City · FIPS 48427 · Population 65,716 ·
Crosodo Index #85*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (as amended by SB 541, 2025)

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: STARR COUNTY

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Starr County

Population 65,716 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (as amended by SB 541, 2025) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of the operator’s primary domestic residence. Local health departments have NO authority to inspect or require permits. Food handler certification required. Annual sales cap \$150,000.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Texas law expressly prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from banning cottage food production in homes. No local permit required for cottage food. Business registration with Texas Secretary of State and sales tax compliance may be required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS/local may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Cottage food must be produced in the home kitchen of the operator’s primary domestic residence. Local health departments have NO authority to inspect or require permits. Food handler certification required. Annual sales cap \$150,000.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific statutory prohibition; food handler training covers safe practices
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing per food handler training
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage required; prohibited foods include meat, poultry, seafood, ice cream, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS/local may act only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Texas law expressly prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from banning cottage food production in homes. No local permit required for cottage food. Business registration with Texas Secretary of State and sales tax compliance may be required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed (SB 541 added cottage food vendors for wholesale). Sales at home, farmers markets, events, and retail stores permitted. No restriction on delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under TX cottage food law

Relevant county code

Texas law preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas SB 541 (2025) raised sales cap to \$150,000 and expanded allowable foods. Starr County is a border county with Rio Grande City as seat. Texas law expressly preempts local restrictions on cottage food home production. Health departments have no inspection authority. Food handler cert required. No county-specific restrictions found. County URLs all blank in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<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/starr-county-discuss>

State context — Texas cottage food law

Starr 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/>
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Questions?

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

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