

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Doddridge County

West Virginia · West Union · FIPS 54017 · Population 8,530 ·  
Crosodo Index #1790\*

STATE BASELINE

W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (enacted 2026); §19-35-6

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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.

WEST VIRGINIA: DODDRIDGE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1790\* · FIPS 54017 · West Union

# Doddridge County

Population 8,530 · State baseline: W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (enacted 2026); §19-35-6 ·

**MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit. No sales cap. Must be produced in producer’s domestic residence. All sales must occur within West Virginia.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during production.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Doddridge County is a small rural north-central West Virginia county. Very low population density with minimal formal zoning in unincorporated areas. Home-based cottage food operations face minimal local regulatory barriers.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness investigation by WV DHHR. WV Code §19-40-5 authorizes WVDA inspection for potentially hazardous cottage foods.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit. No sales cap. Must be produced in producer’s domestic residence. All sales must occur within West Virginia.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during production.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state requirement for cottage food; public or private water acceptable.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard sanitation practices required; no formal state inspection trigger.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness investigation by WV DHHR. WV Code §19-40-5 authorizes WVDA inspection for potentially hazardous cottage foods.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Doddridge County is a small rural north-central West Virginia county. Very low population density with minimal formal zoning in unincorporated areas. Home-based cottage food operations face minimal local regulatory barriers.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	No

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain within WV.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	WV statute does not specify an employee cap for cottage food operations.

### Relevant county code

Doddridge County Commission; W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. WV enacted a new Cottage Foods Article 40 in 2026 via SB 44. Doddridge County is a small rural WV county with minimal formal zoning. State baseline is the operative framework.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.doddridgecounty.gov>

<https://oeh.dhhr.wv.gov/foodprotection/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Doddridge County	Gilmer County	Lewis County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ...	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ...	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain...	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain...	Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou...	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou...	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou...
FOOD STORAGE	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.
POPULATION	8,530	7,782	16,372

## State context — West Virginia cottage food law

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

<b>STATUTE</b> W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (Article 40, Cottage Foods, enacted 2026); §19-35-6 (Nonpotentially hazardous foods at farmers markets)	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Depends	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b>	
No — Cottage food must be sold directly to consumers. The new Article 40 (effective June 12, 2026) establishes that potentially hazardous cottage food vendors need a statewide permit but nonpotentially hazardous food sellers are fully exempt from permit and inspection. Local health departments may invoke cessation of production only if an imminent health hazard exists, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture. The input batch cited §16-7-1 (a general adulteration statute), but the operative cottage food framework is now Article 40 (§19-40-1 through §19-40-6), signed March 27, 2026.	

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/16-7/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://oeh.dhhr.wv.gov/foodprotection/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/west-virginia/>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Doddridge County’s specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/doddridge-county-discuss>

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## LOCAL

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Reach home bakers in Doddridge County, West Virginia. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

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Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

[crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/doddridge-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/doddridge-county-discuss)

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