

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Nicholas County

West Virginia · Summersville · FIPS 54067 · Population
25,295 · Crosodo Index #1806*

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: NICHOLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1806* · FIPS 54067 · Summersville

Nicholas County

Population 25,295 · 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 (Nicholas County is in central West Virginia, home to Summersville Lake (one of WV’s largest lakes) and outdoor recreation tourism. The county seat of Summersville may have local ordinances. Rural unincorporated areas likely have minimal formal zoning. Verify with the Nicholas County Commission.)

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

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 DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during production.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food; public or private water acceptable.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; no formal state inspection trigger.
FOOD STORAGE	Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended.

Inspection & permitting

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 OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Nicholas County is in central West Virginia, home to Summersville Lake (one of WV’s largest lakes) and outdoor recreation tourism. The county seat of Summersville may have local ordinances. Rural unincorporated areas likely have minimal formal zoning. Verify with the Nicholas County Commission.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	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

Nicholas 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. Nicholas County is home to Summersville Lake and outdoor recreation. State baseline is the operative framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/nicholas-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Nicholas County	Braxton County	Clay 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	25,295	13,817	8,590

State context — West Virginia cottage food law

Nicholas 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.

STATUTE

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)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Depends

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

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

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