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Cottage Food Law Statutes:

Arkansas



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication
Cottage Food Laws: Arkansas

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-201
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-501
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-502
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-503 (5)(B), (5)(B)(i)(b)
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-504
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-505
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-506
Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-507

Current through all legislation of the 2024 Fiscal Session and the Second Extraordinary Session (2024).

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-201. Food Service Establishments, Definitions.

As used in §§ 20-57-203 - 20-57-205:

(1)

(A)

(i) "Food service establishment" means any place where food is prepared, processed, stored, or intended for use or consumption by the public regardless of whether there is a charge for the food.

(ii) "Food service establishment" includes wholesale and retail food stores, convenience stores, food markets, delicatessens, restaurants, food processing or manufacturing plants, bottling and canning plants, wholesale and retail block and prepackaged ice manufacturing plants, food caterers, and food warehouses.

(iii) "Food service establishment" does not include supply vehicles or locations of vending machines.

(B) The following are also exempt:

(i) Group homes routinely serving ten (10) or fewer persons;

(ii) Daycare centers routinely serving twelve (12) or fewer persons;

(iii) Potluck suppers, community picnics, or other group gatherings where food is served but not sold;



(iv) A person at a farmers' market that offers for sale only one (1) or more of the following:

- (a) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;
- (b) Maple syrup, sorghum, or honey that is produced by a maple syrup or sorghum producer or beekeeper;
- (c) Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous; or
- (d) Homemade food or drink products under the Food Freedom Act, § 20-57-501 et seq.;

(v) A person who offers for sale at a roadside stand only fresh fruits and fresh vegetables that are unprocessed or a homemade food or drink product under the Food Freedom Act, § 20-57-501 et seq.;

(vi) A maple syrup and sorghum processor and beekeeper if the processor or beekeeper offers only maple syrup, sorghum, or honey directly to the consumer from the site where those products are processed or homemade food or drink products under the Food Freedom Act, § 20-57-501 et seq., or both;

(vii) A person who offers for sale only one (1) or more of the following foods at a festival or celebration, on the condition that the festival or celebration is organized by a political subdivision of the state and lasts for a period not longer than seven (7) consecutive days:

- (a) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;
- (b) Maple syrup, sorghum, or honey if produced by a maple syrup or sorghum processor or beekeeper;
- (c) Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous; or
- (d) Homemade food or drink products under the Food Freedom Act, § 20-57-501 et seq.;

(viii) A farm market that offers for sale at the farm market only one (1) or more of the following:

- (a) Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;
- (b) Maple syrup, sorghum, or honey that is produced by a maple syrup or sorghum producer or beekeeper;
- (c) Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous; or



(d) Homemade food or drink products under the Food Freedom Act, § 20-57-501 et seq.;

(ix) An establishment that offers only prepackaged foods that are not potentially hazardous as defined by the State Board of Health;

(x) Ice vending machines or kiosks where ice is dispensed in the open air and that are totally self-contained; and

(xi) A producer or informed end consumer engaged in transactions under the Food Freedom Act, § 20-57-501 et seq.; and

(2) "Food service industry" means the aggregate of food service establishments.

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-501. Food Freedom Act, Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Food Freedom Act".

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-502. Food Freedom Act, Purpose.

The purpose of this subchapter is to allow for a producer's production and sale of homemade food or drink products for an informed end consumer and to encourage the expansion of agricultural sales at farmers' markets, ranches, farms, and producers' homes or offices by:

(1) Facilitating the purchase and consumption of fresh and local agricultural products;

(2) Enhancing the agricultural economy; and

(3) Providing citizens of Arkansas with unimpeded access to healthy food and drink products from known sources.

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-503. Food Freedom Act, Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1)

(A) "Delivery" means the transfer of a homemade food or drink product resulting from a transaction between a producer and an informed end consumer.

(B) "Delivery" includes the transfer of a homemade food or drink product to an informed end consumer by the producer or producer's designated agent at a farm, ranch, farmers' market, home, office, or any location permitted under this subchapter or agreed to between the producer and the informed end consumer;

(2) "Farmers' market" means a common facility or area where several vendors may gather on a regular, recurring basis to sell a



variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, locally grown farm products, and other items permitted under this subchapter directly to consumers;

(3) "Homemade food or drink product" means a food or drink product that is processed at the private residence of the producer, including a farm or ranch where the producer resides, that is exempt from state licensure, inspection, certification, and packaging and labeling requirements, and that is non-time/temperature control for safety food;

(4) "Informed end consumer" means a person who:

(A) Is the last person to purchase any homemade food or drink product;

(B) Does not resell the homemade food or drink product; and

(C) Has been informed that the homemade food or drink product:

(i) Is not regulated, inspected, certified, or subject to state packaging or labeling requirements; and

(ii) Has not been processed in a facility that is subject to state licensing, permitting, inspection, or regulation;

(5)

(A) "Non-time/temperature control for safety food" means food that does not require time or temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation and as defined in the rules of the Department of Health.

(B) "Non-time/temperature control for safety food" includes without limitation pickled cucumbers and other acidified vegetables that have an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or less if:

(i)

(a) The recipe:

(1) Is from a source approved by the department; or

(2) Has been tested by an appropriately certified laboratory that confirmed the finished product has an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or less.

(b) If a recipe is not as described in subdivision (5)(B)(i)(a) of this section, the producer shall test each batch of the recipe with a calibrated pH meter to confirm the finished product has an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or less;

(ii) The batch is labeled with a unique number; and

(iii) The producer maintains records that include:

(a) The batch number;



- (b) The recipe used by the producer;
- (c) The source of the recipe or testing results if applicable;
and
- (d) The date that the batch was prepared;

(6) "Process" means operations a producer performs in the preparing, producing, or processing of the producer's homemade food or drink products and includes cooking, baking, drying, mixing, cutting, fermenting, preserving, dehydrating, growing, and raising;

(7) "Producer" means a person who processes homemade food or drink products on the person's private residence;

(8)

(A) "Time/temperature control for safety food" means food that requires time or temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation and as defined in the rules of the department.

(B) "Time/temperature control for safety food" includes:

- (i) An animal food that is raw or heat treated;
- (ii) Food of plant origin that is heat treated or consists of raw seed sprouts;
- (iii) Cut leafy greens;
- (iv) Cut tomatoes or mixtures of cut tomatoes; and
- (v) Garlic-in-oil mixtures; and

(9) "Transaction" means the exchange of buying and selling in person, by telephone or online, and the delivery of the homemade food or drink product.

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-504. Food Freedom Act, Food Freedom.

(a) Unless otherwise provided in this section, homemade food or drink products produced and sold in compliance with this subchapter are exempt from state licensure, certification, inspection, and packaging and labeling requirements.

(b) A transaction under this subchapter shall:

(1)

(A) Be directly between the seller and the informed end consumer.

(B) The seller of a homemade food or drink product may be the producer of the homemade food or drink



product, an agent of the producer, or a third-party vendor, including a retail shop or grocery store;

- (2) Occur in Arkansas or in another state if the seller complies with all applicable federal laws;
- (3) Not involve the sale of meat, poultry, seafood, or time/temperature control for safety food products;
- (4) Be delivered by the producer, agent of the producer, third-party vendor, or third-party carrier to the informed end consumer; and
- (5) Satisfy the disclosure requirements in § 20-57-505.

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-505. Food Freedom Act, Disclosures.

(a) The following information shall be provided to the informed end consumer as described in subsection (b) of this section:

- (1) The date that the homemade food or drink product was manufactured, produced, or processed;
- (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the producer of the homemade food or drink product, or an identification number provided by the Department of Agriculture if requested by the producer to protect the producer's safety;
- (3) The common or usual name of the homemade food or drink product;
- (4) The ingredients of the homemade food or drink product in descending order of predominance; and
- (5) The following statement: "This product was produced in a private residence that is exempt from state licensing and inspection. This product may contain allergens."

(b) The information required under subsection (a) of this section shall be provided on:

- (1) A label affixed to the:
 - (A) Package if the homemade food or drink product is packaged; or
 - (B) Container and a separate written document provided to the informed end consumer upon sale if the homemade food or drink product is offered for sale from a bulk container;
- (2) A placard displayed at the point of sale if the homemade food or drink product is not packaged or offered for sale from a bulk container; or



(3) The website on which the homemade food or drink product is offered for sale if the product is offered for sale online.

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-506. Food Freedom Act, Exemptions – Location sold.

- (a) Except as provided in this subchapter, a homemade food or drink product shall not be sold or used in any food service establishment.
- (b) A homemade food or drink product may be sold:
 - (1) From a retail space located at the ranch, farm, home, or office where the homemade food or drink product is produced; or
 - (2) At a retail location of a third-party vendor of the homemade food or drink product.
- (c) A seller who is operating in a retail space or location that also sells food and drink made in a licensed food service establishment shall keep homemade food or drink products separate from the items prepared or processed in the licensed food service establishment.

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-57-507. Food Freedom Act, Applicability – Preemption.

- (a) This subchapter does not:
 - (1) Impede the Department of Health in any investigation of foodborne illness;
 - (2) Change the requirements for brand inspection or animal health inspections;
 - (3) Preclude an agency from providing assistance, consultation, or inspection, at the request of the producer;
 - (4) Preclude the production or sale of food items otherwise allowed by law, including without limitation incidental sales of milk that has not been pasteurized under § 20-59-248;
 - (5) Change the regulation of other goods and services where homemade food or drink products are also produced or sold;
 - (6) Exempt producers or sellers of homemade food or drink products from any applicable:
 - (A) Tax law;
 - (B) Fishing or hunting law;
 - (C) Federal law, including any federal law prohibiting the sale of certain food items in interstate commerce; or
 - (D) Another state's laws; or



(7) Conflict with the authority of the department to ensure food is not adulterated or misbranded under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, § 20-56-201 et seq.

(b) This subchapter preempts county, municipal, and other political subdivision jurisdictions from prohibiting and regulating the production and sale of homemade food or drink products.

