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Overview: Allowed Foods, Label Requirements

Direct-to-consumer sales of food, including at farmers markets, are growing in popularity across the United States and across Kansas. These sales provide a valuable market outlet for local farmers and allow consumers to purchase healthy local produce and other foods. To protect this key market outlet, it is essential that the food sold directly to consumers is produced and processed safely according to the relevant governmental rules, regulations, and guidelines. Not only will this produce products that are as safe as possible, it will also assure your customers that your business has product quality and safety in mind.

Any food sales (other than fresh, whole fruits, vegetables, cultivated mushrooms, and herbs) to another business entity for use, resale, or further distribution requires food safety licensing (generally a KDA food processing license). For example, selling to a restaurant, grocery store, variety store, or convenience store. Consignment sales are also not subject to the direct-to-consumer exemptions. Contact KDA for more information about wholesale licenses.

*** Retail food sales (including at farmers markets) in Kansas are regulated for food safety by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) Food Safety and Lodging program. Therefore, if you are selling products direct to consumers in Kansas, the state requirements listed in this document are what you need to follow. More information on how to obtain the various KDA licenses mentioned in this document is included after the tables and in subsequent sections of the document. KDA encourages vendors to contact them with any questions regarding safety or licensing, as KDA is happy to answer food safety questions and guide people*

through the licensing process.

- * *Vendors should also check with the market where they are selling, as their requirements may be more stringent than state governmental regulations.*
- * *More detailed requirements for most products listed in the tables below are included in subsequent sections of this document.*

Note: *These requirements apply to all direct-to-consumer sales of food, including festivals, bazaars, craft shows, and similar events where people making the products sell their own products. The listed licensing exemptions would also apply to exempt foods sold online and shipped to the customer's home or delivered by the producer directly to the end consumer. Note that for foods sold online to a person in another state(s), the seller must also follow the rules of the receiving state(s). Foods sold under the direct-to-consumer licensing exemption may be sold in bulk and the customer can bring their own clean container to transport the foods. If a food does NOT require licensing to be sold directly to consumers, it can be made in the producer's regular home kitchen, as long as the kitchen provides a clean and sanitary environment for preparation of that food. KDA also encourages people producing and selling products direct-to-consumer that do not require licensing to use suitable shared-kitchen spaces to make their products.*

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Foods that are *ALLOWED* to be sold directly to consumers in Kansas *WITHOUT* licensing, according to state regulations (*Note: If your product is not listed in this section, please refer to the Licensing Required table starting on page 4.*)

Food Product Type	Examples	Regulatory requirements
Baked goods (home kitchen)	Cookies, breads, cakes, cinnamon rolls, fruit pies, fruit cobbler	Follow labeling requirements (on page 8). Note that breads with cheese and/or vegetables (e.g. jalapenos) baked in/on them require testing to determine their category (see testing table on page 6).
Icing/frosting, including cream cheese-based, with >65% sugar by weight	Icing on cinnamon rolls	If the icing is known to contain >65% sugar by weight, testing and licensing is not needed. Otherwise, testing is required to determine if licensing is required or not (see page 6).
Dry baking mixes	Cookie mix, brownie mix	Follow labeling requirements (on page 8).
Fresh (or dried or freeze-dried) uncut fruits, vegetables (not cut beyond normal harvesting), or any herbs	Tomatoes, melons, okra, apples, basil, garlic scapes	May be home-grown; any pesticide use must comply with label directions. If products are heat treated before drying, a KDA Food Establishment License is required. If they are not heat treated before drying, a license is not required. Note that licensing is not required for buying and re-selling produce direct-to-consumer.
Whole, frozen fruits or vegetables NOT heated before freezing	Whole, uncut tomatoes that have not been blanched before freezing	If intact and the product is maintained frozen to the customer, no license is required.
Intact salad greens (not cut beyond normal harvesting)	Mixed greens with only intact leaves, includes microgreens and shoots (not cut beyond normal harvesting practices)	Follow weights and measures requirements. All sprouts and any leafy greens cut beyond normal harvesting cuts require a KDA Food Establishment License.
Certain cut produce and cut herbs (other than cut tomatoes, melons, or leafy greens)	Cut berries, cut herbs, cut carrots, zucchini noodles, etc. Can be frozen, fresh, dried, or freeze dried.	If product is blanched before freezing and has a pH above 4.2, a KDA Food Establishment License is required for frozen foods. If not blanched first, no licensing required. Note that if produce is heated before selling, a license is required. Herbs are NOT included in the leafy greens category and do not require a license to be sold even if cut. Produce purchased from other sources is included in this category.
Nuts and nut butters	Walnuts, pecans, peanut butter	May be sold shelled or in-shell. Peanut and other nut butters can also be sold direct to consumer without licensing. Nuts may also be roasted/smoked without a license.
Honey	Includes honey and spun honey. Includes honey infused with items that do not require temperature control for safety (such as cinnamon sticks).	Can sell direct-to-consumer without licensing. Sales of packaged honey to grocery stores and other businesses (including consignment sales) for resale or sales by an individual that did not package the honey requires a KDA Food Processing License. Infusing honey with items that require temperature control for safety would require appropriate licensing.
Eggs (< 250 hens)	Chicken, duck, goose, turkey, etc.	Should be sold at ≤45°F. Cartons should be clean and labeled properly. (Temperature control and labeling strongly suggested for establishments with fewer than 50 hens; temperature control and labeling required for farms with 51 to 249 hens.) Eggs must be ungraded. Egg licensing (and grading) is required with > 249 hens or if selling graded eggs.) Fertilized eggs (not baluts) are also allowed for sale if they are raised in Kansas (not coming in from out of state). Baluts require a food safety license.
Poultry (< 20,000 birds/year)	Chicken, duck, goose, turkey, etc.	Growers raising fewer than 1,000 birds/year can slaughter at their own facility and sell direct-to-consumers at their farm without registration or inspection. Growers selling 1,001 to 20,000 birds/year must obtain a KDA Meat & Poultry Wholesaler license with a poultry exemption. The cost of a license is \$25 per calendar year. More details available in https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/meat-and-poultry/poultry-exemption-5-1-19.pdf?sfvrsn=43488bc1_4

NOTE: It is a regulatory requirement that ALL foods on sale or display (even if no licensing is required) must be effectively protected from contamination and sold in a sanitary manner. Uninspected food products in Kansas do NOT need to be labeled as “homemade” or other indication that they are not inspected. However, homemade food products can be labeled as such.

*Products requiring specialized processing include beef jerky, vacuum-packaged temperature control for safety foods, acidifying and/or pickling, curing using nitrites, fermenting, and sprouting. All of these products require food safety licensing regardless of the number of days they are sold, as listed in the table on pp. 4-6.

Foods ALLOWED WITHOUT licensing, cont.

Food Product Type	Examples	Regulatory requirements
Home-canned fruit jams and jellies; jams and jellies <i>flavored with pepper-flavored vinegar or small amounts of pepper powder, apple butter</i>	Fruit jams and jellies (note that reduced or no-sugar jams or jellies require a product assessment)	Must follow labeling requirements (see page 8). Products with low-acid fruits such as mangoes require product evaluation.
Canned soda/pop-based jelly	Lemon-lime soda jelly	Must follow labeling requirements. May be canned in a home kitchen without a license for direct-to-consumer sales.
Canned, shelf stable naturally high acid foods, canned high-acid fruit pie filling	Canned applesauce, canned fruits	Must follow labeling requirements. Requirements for other canned foods listed below. May be canned in a home kitchen without a license for direct-to-consumer sales.
Juice, cider: high-acid	Apple juice, apple cider	May be sold under the direct-to-consumer exemption without a license if sold packaged (served by the glass requires license.) If not pasteurized, must include a warning statement on the label (see p. 61, Kansas Food Code, https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/fsl--handouts/2012_kda_food_code_12_14_12.pdf). May be kept cold for quality and consumer expectation.
Juices: low-acid (NOT heat treated/filled/sealed, sold refrigerated less than 6 days a year)	Celery, beet, carrot, leafy greens, wheat grass juice, etc.	If the low-acid juice is NOT heat treated and sealed in its preparation, it must be sold refrigerated. If it is made and sold less than 6 days a year, a license is not required. If it is sold more than 6 days a year, licensing is required. If it is heat treated and sealed in its preparation, then it is considered a low acid canned food, which will require licensing. Note: Tomato juice requires a product evaluation to determine its category. If not pasteurized, all juices must include a warning statement on the label (see p. 58, Kansas Food Code, https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/fsl--handouts/2012_kda_food_code_12_14_12.pdf). Can be put into bottles or jugs, but not sealed or hot-filled to be exempt. A Food Establishment License is required if sold by the drink/cup/glass.
Candy and fudge (made by the producer)	Cinnamon hard candy; caramels, toffee, fudge	Homemade chocolates (other than fudge) must be tested to determine if a Food Establishment License is needed (see testing table on page 6).
Products not requiring refrigeration for safety dipped in or decorated with commercially prepared melting chocolate	Chocolate-covered pretzels, strawberries, nuts, etc.	Homemade chocolate mixtures must be tested to determine their category, but melting commercially prepared chocolates for decorating or dipping does not require testing or a license.
Freeze dried shelf-stable candies	Freeze dried purchased or home-made shelf-stable candies	If the candy requires refrigeration for safety before it is freeze-dried, it will require a Food Establishment License to freeze dry it to sell.
<i>Cultivated</i> mushrooms (culinary and medicinal)	Fresh or dried	If not processed beyond cleaning and not heat-treated, cultivated mushrooms may be sold without a license. Mushrooms must be grown in protected environments and kept free from contaminants. Following Mushroom Good Agricultural Practices as indicated on page 10 is recommended. Blanching or heat treating requires a Food Establishment license.
Fish and seafood — sold whole on ice (does NOT include catfish and other Siluriformes)	Whole tilapia, shrimp	No HACCP plan or food processing license required. Wild-caught fish sales are illegal without a commercial fishing permit from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. See K.S.A. 115-17-10 and 115-17-13 for more information.
Foods and beverages prepared off site, sold ready for immediate consumption — <i>six or fewer times per calendar year.</i>	Sandwiches, pizza, potato salad, refrigerated cold-brew coffee, etc. prepared and sold by any entity intended to be eaten at the market — <i>six or fewer times per calendar year.</i>	No licensing required; however, must follow Kansas Administrative Regulations (KAR) 4-28-33 “Sanitation and hygiene requirements for exempt food establishments”. More details also in KAR 4-28-34 (Exemption from licensure; definitions). This includes cooking classes and competitions, such as BBQ competitions.
Foods and beverages sold ready for immediate consumption by community groups for fundraising purposes	Sandwiches, pizza, etc. prepared and sold by 4-H groups, church groups, schools, etc. (with no staff paid by the proceeds of the food sales).	No licensing required; however, must follow “Sanitation and hygiene requirements for exempt food establishments”. (KAR 4-28-33) Fundraising for community or humanitarian purposes and educational or youth activities is exempt from licensing with no restriction on number of times done per year.

Foods ALLOWED WITHOUT licensing, cont.

Food Product Type	Examples	Regulatory requirements
Non-specialized processed food that is made and sold <i>six or fewer days in a year</i> . (Intended for people to purchase and consume at home.)	Frozen bierocks, frozen protein popsicles, pork rinds, refrigerated noodles, pesto, refrigerator pickles, refrigerated salsa, refrigerated elderberry syrup, refrigerated cold-brew coffee, etc. Other items that are included in this category are also indicated with a ** in the table below.	The food product can be made on day one and each day they are sold adds to the total of up to 6 days without a license. Must follow "Sanitation and hygiene requirements for exempt food establishments" (KAR 4-28-33). Products such as pesto need to be cooled quickly and held at < 41°F for no more than 6 days after preparing. Any products that require specialized processing* require a food safety license even if it is for 6 or fewer days. If the food is sold more than 6 days a year, a Food Establishment license would be required.
Homemade dried pasta	Dried egg noodles	No licensing required if dried in a protected environment in a short time. Directions on package to thoroughly boil the noodles is recommended.
Vanilla extract		No licensing needed if the product meets the standard of identity in 21 CFR 169.175 to ensure it is vanilla extract and not a flavored alcohol.
Spices and herbs — bulk or small quantities	Cinnamon, cloves, etc.	Product must be labeled properly, unadulterated, and sold in a sanitary manner.
Loose leaf tea		Product must be labeled properly, unadulterated, and sold in a sanitary manner.
Lard		No licensing required if sold direct-to-consumer.
Pepper vinegars		RAW peppers or commercially pickled peppers must be used in making pepper vinegar to sell direct-to-consumer without a license
Herb-flavored/infused vinegars	Vinegar poured over fresh tarragon, fresh garlic, fresh basil, fire cider	A license and product evaluation are NOT required unless using low-acid vinegar (pH>4.2) or more than 10% low-acid ingredients, like herbs, which would raise the equilibrium pH above 4.2
Grain products	Home-ground flour, cornmeal, popcorn, intact grain, dehydrated sourdough starter	Standard hygiene and sanitation requirements, as with all food sold
Dry snacks seasoned with oil and spices	Dry pretzels mixed with oil and spices	Standard hygiene and sanitation requirements, as with all food sold.
Fruit leathers	Apricot leather, other fruits	Standard hygiene and sanitation requirements, as with all food sold
Sampling of food products	Fruit, vegetable, prepared food samples	Samples must be prepared and served in a sanitary manner. More details available in the KSRE/KDA publication MF3311, "Sampling Safely at Kansas Farmers Markets. (https://bookstore.ksre.k-state.edu/pubs/MF3311.pdf)

Foods THAT REQUIRE proper licensing (temperature control for safety or specialized process foods and beverages)

Note: More information on costs and requirements for a KDA Food Establishment License, Food Processors License, and other various licenses is available from: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/foodlicense> or by contacting the KDA Food Safety and Lodging program (KDA.FSL@ks.gov or 785-564-6767). A KDA Food Processing license allows for distribution to other business entities, often called wholesale sales, such as to grocery stores, restaurants, through a co-op, consignment sales etc. A KDA Food Establishment license only allows for direct-to-consumer sales.

The products below indicated with a ** are allowed to be sold without a license if sold 6 or fewer days a year. If they are sold more than 6 days a year, they require licensing. All other foods listed below require a license regardless of the number of times per year these items are sold. Products that require licensing can NOT be made in a regular home kitchen unless otherwise noted below. **Freeze drying any foods in the list below would still require the indicated license.** For foods requiring licensing, the producer must provide the food container (the customer cannot provide their own container.)

Food Product Type	Examples	Regulatory requirements
**Baked products with potentially hazardous dairy and egg products	Cheesecake, cream filled cupcakes or donuts, cream cheese-based frostings or fillings (unless >65% sugar content), cream or meringue pies, custards, pumpkin pie, quiche	KDA Food Establishment license required at production facility and point of sale. NO license required if sold 6 days or less in a year. KDA Food Establishment License required if sold more than 6 days in a year.
**Dough	Refrigerated or frozen cookie dough, pizza dough	Product requires temperature control for safety, so a KDA Food Establishment license is required. NO license required if sold 6 days or less in a year. Licensing required if sold more than 6 days in a year.
**Cut leafy greens (fresh or dried)	Cut or torn lettuce (cut beyond normal harvesting)	KDA Food establishment License required at production facility and point of sale. Must be sold at or below 41°F. This does NOT include cut herbs. NO license required if sold 6 days or less in a year. Licensing required if sold more than 6 days in a year.

Foods THAT REQUIRE proper licensing, cont.

Food Product Type	Examples	Regulatory requirements
**Cut melons, cut tomatoes (fresh or dried)	Cut melons, cut tomatoes	KDA Food establishment License required at production facility and point of sale. Must be sold at or below 41°F. NO license required if sold 6 days or less in a year. Licensing required if sold more than 6 days in a year.
**Dried produce that is heat treated before drying	Vegetables that are blanched before drying	KDA Food Establishment license required at production facility. NO license required if sold 6 days or less in a year. Licensing required if sold more than 6 days in a year.
**Roasted vegetables	Roasted garlic, black garlic, roasted corn	Temperature control is required for safety; therefore, KDA Food Establishment license is required. If you are selling raw produce and providing roasting services on-site, a license is required. Wash produce before roasting. NO license required if sold 6 days or less in a year. Licensing required if sold more than 6 days in a year.
Meat, poultry (>20,000 birds/year), and catfish — raw Note: products containing 2% or more cooked meat or poultry or more than 3% raw meat by weight are considered meat products.	Steaks, ground beef, fresh sausages, turkey, chicken, catfish	Product must be processed at a fully inspected facility, pre-packaged, and properly labeled. A KDA Meat & Poultry Wholesale license must be obtained before any product is sold, regardless if the target buyer is the end consumer or a wholesale account. Product may be sold refrigerated or frozen.
Meat, poultry, and catfish ready-to-eat	Jerky, summer sausage and similar products, freeze-dried meat	Product must be inspected by KDA or USDA and sold at the appropriate temperature. Meat products cured with nitrites require proper licensing.
Fish and seafood — cleaned (other than catfish — see more information on that above)	Degutted tilapia	KDA Food Establishment or Food Processing license at preparation facility, and Food Establishment license at the point of sale. A Seafood HACCP plan is also needed if any hazards are identified. Wild-caught fish sales are illegal without a commercial fishing permit from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.
Vacuum-packaged foods requiring temperature control for safety	Vacuum-packaged cheese or vacuum-packaged meats requiring refrigeration for safety	Must follow the requirements listed above for cheese or meat products or whatever category the food is in.
Sprouted grains (fresh or dried/dehydrated)	Sprouted buckwheat	KDA Food Establishment license required for production facility and for the point of sale.
Sprouts	Alfalfa sprouts, bean sprouts	KDA Food Establishment license required at production facility and point of sale.
Low-acid vegetable juices that have been heat treated and sealed	Juice from kale or other leafy greens, carrot, celery, beet juice that has been heat treated and sealed	KDA Food Establishment license required at production facility and point of sale. A license is also required if juice is sold by the cup/glass.
Wild mushrooms	Morel mushrooms	Mushrooms picked in the wild must be individually inspected for safety by a KDA-registered mushroom identifier. More information available in the Selling Fresh Produce section (page 10).
Naturally fermented canned foods	Sauerkraut, kimchi, kombucha, naturally fermented pickles	KDA Food Establishment License required for production facility.
Symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY)	Used for production of kombucha	KDA Food Establishment License required for production facility.
• Acidified shelf-stable canned foods • Low-acid shelf-stable canned foods	• Pickles (includes pickled cucumbers, okra, and other vegetables and pickled eggs), hot sauces, lemon curd, canned tomatoes [†] • Canned vegetables, canned pumpkin pie filling, canned vegetable juice, shelf-stable cold-brew coffee, meats, cake/bread baked in a jar [‡]	KDA Food Establishment License or Food Processing License required for production facility. Requires Process Authority review and recipe approval; Better Process Control School (BPCS) required. KDA Meat and Poultry inspection required if canned meat is sold wholesale. Contact Kansas State University Value-Added Foods Lab for more information on recipe approval and BPCS: www.ksre.ksu.edu/kvafll
Foods and beverages prepared on or off site, sold ready for immediate consumption — six or more times per calendar year.	Burritos, egg rolls, pizza, grilled hamburgers or other meats; lemonade, refrigerated cold-brew coffee	<i>If selling more than six times/year</i> , vendor must have a KDA Food Establishment license. A Food Processing license is required for any wholesale sales. KDA inspection is required for any wholesale sales.

Food Product Type	Examples	Regulatory requirements
Non-specialized processed food that is made and <i>sold six or more days in a year</i> . (Intended for people to purchase and consume at home.)	Frozen bierocks, frozen protein popsicles, pork rinds, refrigerated noodles, pesto, refrigerator pickles, refrigerated salsa, refrigerated elderberry syrup, refrigerated cold brew coffee, etc.	The calculation of 6 days or more includes the day the product is made and each day they are sold. Food Establishment license is required. A Food Processing license is required for any wholesale sales. KDA inspection is required for any meat or poultry wholesale sales.
Alcoholic beverages	Beer, wine, possibly kombucha drinks	Kansas Dept. of Revenue alcohol licensing requirements must be met. (www.ksrevenue.org/abcstatutes.html)
Infused oils	Infused cooking olive oils; garlic-in-oil mixtures	KDA Food Establishment License or Food Processing License required for production facility. If finished product is not shelf stable, Food Establishment license also required for point-of-sale.
Animal feed/treats	Pet food/treats — regardless of the type of ingredients in the pet treats (meat or grain, etc.) or the method of preparation (freeze drying or other).	Kansas commercial feed license and small pet product application required. Food safety license not required (may be made in a home kitchen). Guaranteed analysis for protein, fat, and fiber, and ingredient statement required on label. (More information available from: http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-inspection/feed-safety/feed-licenses) For more assistance with pet foods, contact the K-State Pet Food Program at https://www.k-state.edu/pet-food/
Broths	Bone broth	If broth includes less than 2% meat or poultry (after cooking), KDA Food Establishment license required for direct-to-consumer sales. KDA Food Processing license required if selling wholesale. If canned and sold shelf stable, follow acidified or low-acid canned food requirements (see above).
Dairy products; milk	Milk, cheese, yogurt, etc. from cows, goats, other mammals	Pasteurized and processed at KDA licensed Dairy Manufacturing Plant; KDA Food Establishment license required at point of sale. If a vendor can provide information about a vacuum packaged cheese to show that it does not require refrigeration for safety (typically low water activity and low pH values), a Food Establishment license would NOT be required for the point of sale. These regulations apply to products that start with a raw milk product and is then pasteurized. If a producer purchases pasteurized milk to include in a product, the product would fall under the appropriate category for the final product. Note that freeze drying milk and milk products requires proper licensing
Candy containing >1% alcohol by volume	Bourbon balls	KDOR non-beverage manufacturer license would be required. More information available here: https://www.ksrevenue.gov/abcnonbevuser.html

† Canned tomatoes must either have added acid (2 Tablespoons of bottled lemon juice, ½ teaspoon citric acid, OR 4 Tablespoons of 5% acidity vinegar per quart of tomatoes. For pints, use half the amounts listed above.) Otherwise, a pH test (by the KS Value Added Foods Lab or other) must ensure it is below pH 4.6.

‡ Note that these products could be sold under refrigeration without the requirement for BPCS or a scheduled process (by a Process Authority), but they would still require a Food Establishment license for direct-to-consumer sales.

Foods that must be tested to determine if a license is required or not

Producers can send their products to the Kansas Value Added Foods Lab (www.ksre.ksu.edu/kvafl) or another accredited lab for testing. In addition to the pricing listed on the website, pricing for individual tests is also available. Contact kvafl@ksu.edu or 785-532-1294 for more information. For all products requiring testing, documentation of the product assessment must be kept by the operator and made available upon request.

Food Product Type	Nature of test	Notes
Pepper jams and jellies (canned, shelf-stable, other than those described above as exempt). Includes jellies made with pepper juice.	pH and/or water activity [†] , product formulation	If product is determined to have low water activity or is a formulated acid food, product can be sold without a license. Otherwise, a KDA Food Establishment license is required.
Flower jellies	pH and/or water activity, product formulation	If product is determined to be an acid food, formulated acid, or low water activity food, no license is required. Otherwise, a KDA Food Establishment license is required.
Low-sugar fruit jams and jellies (canned, shelf-stable)	pH and/or water activity, product formulation	If product is determined to be an acid food, formulated acid, or low water activity food, no license is required. Otherwise, a KDA Food Establishment license is required.
"Formulated acid food": salsa, barbecue sauce and similar foods (canned, shelf-stable). This category also includes purchased pickles repacked with sugar and hot sauce.	pH and product formulation	Depending on the pH of the final product and the main product ingredients, the product may be exempt from licensing [†] or may be considered an acidified canned food that requires a Food Establishment license (see information on acidified foods in table above).

Food Product Type	Nature of test	Notes
Homemade chocolate candies; meringue cookies	Water Activity and product formulation	If product is determined to require temperature control for safety in a product assessment, KDA Food Establishment license is required. Otherwise, no license is required.
Pecan pie	Water activity of the filling	If the filling is determined to require temperature control based on its water activity, KDA Food Establishment license is required. Otherwise, no license is required.
Powdered sugar/ milk icing	Water activity of the icing	Often used on cinnamon rolls and similar products. If product is determined to have low water activity, product can be sold without a license. Otherwise, KDA Food Establishment license required. If the icing is known to contain >65% sugar by weight, testing and licensing is not needed.
Bread with cheese and/or vegetables (e.g. jalapenos) baked in/ on top	Water activity and product formulation	If product is determined to have low water activity and thus not require refrigeration for safety, product can be sold without a license. Otherwise, KDA Food Establishment license required.
Homemade mustard	pH and product formulation	If the product is determined to have pH below 4.6 and that it can be safely stored at room temperature, product can be sold direct-to-consumer without a license. Otherwise, KDA Food Establishment license is required.
Herb-infused simple syrups, elderberry and other fruit syrups, shagbark hickory syrup (sold shelf-stable)	Water activity, product formulation	If product is determined to be a low water activity food, no license is required. Otherwise, KDA Food Establishment license is required. If the ratio of sugar-to-water in the syrup is at least 2:1, a license is not required and no testing is required.
Tomato juice	pH	If the product is determined to have pH below 4.6, packaged product can be sold direct-to-consumer without a license. Otherwise, KDA Food Establishment license is required.
Pumpkin butter, squash butter	Water activity, pH, product formulation	If product is determined to be a low water activity food and/or below 4.6 pH, no license is required. Otherwise, KDA Food Establishment license is required.
Candy containing <1% alcohol by volume	Bourbon balls	If the product water activity is <0.85, no license is required. If product water activity is >0.85, KDA Food Establishment license is required.

‡ For more information about Product Water Activity and food safety, see Food Safety of Frostings and Fillings (MF3544), <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3544.pdf>

† Even if considered exempt, the producer should check the pH periodically to make sure the product pH (primarily the tomatoes) does not have large variations. These pH records should also be kept by the producer.

How do I get the license(s) I need to meet the requirements listed above?

More information on food safety licenses and the forms needed to apply for the license is available from the Kansas Department of Agriculture website: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/food-safety-lodging/food-safety-egg-lodging-app-forms> or by contacting KDA Food Safety and Lodging program (KDA.FSL@ks.gov or 785-564-6767). To obtain a KDA Meat & Poultry Wholesale license for meat and/or poultry sales, please contact KDA Meat & Poultry Inspection program (785-564-6776). KDA will guide you through the process and answer questions. After the appropriate application form is completed, send the form with your payment to KDA. They will contact you to conduct an initial inspection.

What if I produce (and/or process) my food in Kansas and want to sell in a neighboring state?

To sell products across state lines, you need to **meet Federal requirements**, as well as the retail regulations for Kansas and the state in which you are selling.

- To sell a **processed (non-meat) product**, you will need to initially register (at no cost) your processing facility online with the FDA, and then re-register it every 2 years (October–December of the even numbered years (2018,

2020, etc.)), at: www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FoodFacilityRegistration/default.htm. FDA may then come inspect your facility, and verify you are meeting their current Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs¹ – Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 21 Part 110: www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfifr/CFRSearch.cfm?CFRPart=110) and any other applicable regulations such as Acidified Foods or Low Acid Canned Foods regulations. Such products may also need to follow the requirements of the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Preventive Controls Rule, www.fda.gov/fsma (depending on the volume of product sold).

- To sell a **meat** product across state lines, you must be licensed with the USDA FSIS as a federally inspected facility. A facility licensed with KDA Meat & Poultry Inspection only cannot sell products across state lines.
- To sell **fresh, whole produce**, you may be impacted by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), regardless if you are only selling in-state or across state lines. More information available from: www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce/index.html

¹ A fact sheet on GMPs is available from: bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3201.pdf

In addition to food safety, what other regulatory requirements do I need to follow to sell at a farmers market?

- **Sales tax:** Every vendor must obtain a Retail Sales Tax certificate; vendors should file their tax liability individually. More information is available from the Kansas Department of Revenue (<https://www.ksrevenue.gov/bustaxtypessales.html>) or by calling 785-368-8222.
- **Filing as a business entity:** The Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) has the appropriate forms available online² or by contacting 785-296-4564. Sole proprietorships do NOT file with the SOS. General partnerships may file if desired, but it is not required³.
- **Registration of farmers market or roadside stand:** Farmers markets (as a whole, rather than individual vendors) and roadside stands are encouraged to register in the Central Registry of Kansas Farmers Markets⁴. Registration is voluntary, but will provide advertising and limited liability coverage for farmers markets and roadside stands.
- **Licensing of particular products:** More information on the licensing requirements for growing, producing and selling specific types of food products is available in KDA's Licensing Guides⁵. Topics of particular interest to farmers market vendors include: food processor, food wholesaler and distributor, home kitchen for retail food sales, meat or poultry processing facility, mobile food unit, dairy processing facility, and poultry farm and egg sales.
- **Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP):** Farmers, farmers markets, and roadside stands are eligible to accept SFMNP coupons from customers. More information on how to accept and redeem SFMNP coupons is available from <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1041/Kansas-Senior-Farmers-Market-Nutrition-P>.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Farmers markets are eligible to accept SNAP benefits from customers. Visit the USDA website⁶ for more information on accepting and redeeming SNAP benefits from customers.
- **Scale testing:** Farmers market vendors using a scale to sell products by weight must have a licensed service company⁷ test their scales once annually. More information is available from the KDA Weights and Measures website⁸ or by calling 785-564-6700.

What are the labeling requirements for packaged food products?⁹

1. Common name of the product (e.g. apple pie).

² Forms available from: www.kssos.org/forms/forms_results.aspx?division=BS

³ More information available from: <https://sos.ks.gov/business/business.html>

⁴ Application and more information available from: www.agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/ag-marketing/central-registration-of-kansas-farmers%27-markets.pdf?sfvrsn=0

⁵ Licensing guides are available from: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/kda-services/licensing-guides>

⁶ USDA SNAP website: <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/nutrition-education/nutrition-education-materials/farmers-markets>

⁷ List of licensed scale service companies available from: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/weight-measures/scales>

⁸ KDA Weights and Measures website: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/weight-measures>

⁹ More information on food labeling is available from a KSU Extension Food Safety publication, *Food Labeling for Kansas Food Producers and Processors*: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3385.pdf>; or by contacting KDA Food Safety and Lodging (785-564-6767 or KDA.FSL@ks.gov).

2. Name and physical address of the person that made or is selling the product.
3. Product ingredients listed in descending order of predominance. This is particularly important for customers that have food allergies.
4. Quantity (net weight, volume, or count, depending on product).

Meat products have additional labeling requirements, which are included in the *Selling Meat, Eggs and Dairy Products* section. If producers would like to label their product as “organic,” they must meet the USDA organic certification requirements. More information on obtaining such certification, including an Organic Cost Share Program for Kansas farmers, is available from: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/kda-services/grants-and-cost-share-programs/organic-cost-share-program>. If products are labeled as certified organic, proof of that certification must be on file with the relevant state office regulating the labeling of that product.

How are all these regulations enforced?

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Lodging Program local inspectors and KDA meat and poultry compliance officers conduct random inspections of vendors at farmers markets to check for food safety.

Farmers market managers, K-State Research and Extension personnel, and other related individuals should only provide information on regulations and could make suggestions on how vendors can comply with regulations. However, they are not regulators or enforcers of government regulations. Farmers market managers should enforce any requirements specific to their market.

General Food Safety Practices, Selling Fresh Produce, Samples and Demos

All practices listed in the sections below which are REQUIRED by state regulations are listed in bold and italics. All other practices listed are strongly recommended for food safety.

Retail food sales (including at farmers markets) in Kansas are regulated by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). However, vendors should always check with the market where they are selling, as their requirements may be more stringent than state governmental regulations.

General steps to food safety for all farmers market vendors

- Transport and store foods at proper temperatures to prevent rapid bacterial growth
 - ***Vendors selling perishable foods must have a suitable thermometer with them at the market.***
 - ***Hot prepared foods must be held at 135°F or higher.***
 - Foods to be sold at room temperature (whole produce, canned goods, baked goods) should be kept cooler than 80°F as much as possible.
 - ***Cold perishable foods (such as potato salad or most dairy products) must be 41°F or less.***
 - ***Frozen foods such as frozen meats and ice cream must be***

Table 1. Method of Retail Sale for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Specific Commodity

Commodity	Weight	Count	Head or Bunch	Dry Measure (any size)	Dry Measure (1 dry qt or larger)
Artichokes	X	X			
Asparagus	X		X		
Avocados		X			
Bananas	X	X			
Beans (green, yellow, etc.)	X				X
Brussels Sprouts (loose)	X				
Brussels Sprouts (on stalk)			X		
Cherries	X			X	X
Coconuts	X	X			
Corn on the Cob		X			X
Dates	X				
Eggplant	X	X			
Figs	X				
Grapes	X				
Melons (cut in pieces)	X				
Mushrooms (small)	X			X	X
Mushrooms (portobello, large)	X	X			
Okra	X				
Peas	X				X
Peppers (bell and other varieties)	X	X			X
Pineapples	X	X			
Rhubarb	X		X		
Tomatoes (except cherry/grape)	X	X			X

Table 2. Method of Retail Sale for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables General Commodity Groups

Commodity	Weight	Count	Head or Bunch	Dry Measure (any size)	Dry Measure (1 dry qt or larger)
Berries and Cherry/Grape Tomatoes	X			X	
Citrus Fruits (oranges, grapefruits, lemons, etc.)	X	X			X
Edible Bulbs (onions [spring or green], garlic, leeks, etc.)	X	X	X		X
Edible Tubers (Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, ginger, horseradish, etc.)	X				X
Flower Vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, etc.)	X		X		
Gourd Vegetables (cucumbers, squash, melons, etc.)	X	X			X
Leaf Vegetables (lettuce, cabbage, celery, etc.)*	X		X		
Leaf Vegetables (parsley, herbs, loose greens)*	X		X	X	
Pitted Fruits (peaches, plums, prunes, etc.)	X	X			X
Pome Fruits (apples, pears, mangoes, etc.)	X	X			X
Root Vegetables (turnips, carrots, radishes, etc.)	X		X		

*Gallon bags are NOT considered a dry measure, so leafy greens cannot be sold by the gallon. They would need to be sold by a 4 quart dry measure container (or other dry measure, or by the head/bunch, or by weight.) The product must be measured by an acceptable measurement and then could be transferred to a re-closeable plastic bag for transportation home.

stored and sold frozen (below 0°F is the best practice).

- Coolers and ice packs or ice surrounding the product can be used to transport and hold cold foods. Check the temperature occasionally (about once/hour) with a stem food thermometer¹⁰.
- Reduce possible cross-contamination that can transfer bacteria from one food to another.
 - **Ensure that raw meat or poultry does not contact ready-to-eat food or fresh produce.**
 - If re-using bags for selling products, they must be clean and not previously used for meat.
 - **Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces, equipment, and utensils between uses** (unless using disposable equipment and utensils).
- Practice good personal hygiene (clean clothes, clean hands) to prevent transferring bacteria to your food.
 - Shaking hands, touching money, animals, soiled produce, or utensils can transfer bacteria to your hands.
 - **Wash hands as needed and do not touch prepared foods and baked goods with your bare hands** (use gloves or tongs or other method).
 - Hand sanitizer is not a substitute for handwashing; however, it can be used after washing your hands.
- **Ensure that any ingredients you use to prepare food for market are from safe sources.**
 - For example, use inspected meat, pasteurized milk from a licensed producer, and ingredients from reputable suppliers. Ensure that produce or other products have not been contaminated with flood waters, etc.
- Food vendors are not allowed to have dogs (or other animals), except for service animals in or near their booths (where food is displayed).
 - The common areas of the farmers market outside of the vendor's booth are governed by the market and local rules related to pets being present (there are no state rules in this regard).
 - Dispose of any food that might have been contaminated by a dog or other pet.
- More specific information on good food safety practices and requirements for various types of food are included in the relevant section of this document.

Chef demonstrations

- Foods prepared at chef demonstrations can be offered as small samples at no cost. There is no limit to the number of times/year that such samples can be offered.
- If the resulting food does NOT meet the sample definition (offered at a cost or larger portions), that individual can do six or less such demonstrations per calendar year without a license.

- **Even if not licensed, the chef must still follow the “Sanitation and hygiene requirements for exempt food establishments” listed in Kansas Administrative Regulation 4-28-33. This is similar to the provisions for licensing for a Food Establishment (including a Mobile Unit)** (see section on *Selling Prepared Foods and Baked Goods*).
- It is recommended that a chef do the majority of preparation work at a licensed facility.
- **If a person sells the results of a chef demonstration more than six times per year, a Food Establishment License is required.**
- Contact KDA's Food Safety and Lodging program for more information (KDA.FSL@ks.gov or 785-564-6767).

Selling fresh produce

- Unprocessed whole fruits and vegetables, nuts and other whole agricultural products do not require inspection for sale, unless they would be covered by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule¹¹. Inspections under the Produce Safety Rule are pre-announced.
- Produce growers selling at markets are encouraged to know, understand and apply the principles of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, even if they are exempt from FSMA coverage.
- **Vendors must follow the KDA Weights and Measures Division regulations¹² for the method of selling produce (by weight, count, head or bunch, or by dry measure) The list of allowed methods of retail sale by commodity is available in Tables 1 and 2.**
 - **Vendors using a scale to sell products by weight must have a licensed service company¹³ certify their scales¹⁴ annually.** Before buying a new scale, ensure that the scale can be certified. Information on buying scales is available from: <https://cdn.ncwm.com/userfiles/files/Resources/Consumer%20Information/Buying%20Scales%20Online.pdf>. Scales can also be purchased through any of the scale service companies licensed in Kansas
- **Produce must be stored and displayed so it is protected from contamination.**
 - **Store off the ground and protect from rain, dust or other environmental contaminants.**
- **Sprouted seeds are NOT allowed for sale at a farmers market without proper food safety licensing from KDA.**
- **Mushrooms picked in the wild must be individually inspected for safety by a KDA-registered mushroom identifier.**
 - To become a registered mushroom identifier, a statement of qualification in mushroom identification must be submitted to KDA's Food Safety and Lodging

¹¹ More information on FSMA is available from www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce

¹² More information is available from <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/weight-measures>

¹³ List of companies available from: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/weight-measures/scales>

¹⁴ Reporting form for KDA Weights and Measures available from: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/w-m/scale-di701.pdf?sfvrsn=2>
Information on buying scales is available from: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/w-m/scale-di701.pdf?sfvrsn=cde3b376>

¹⁰ Stem food thermometers and refrigerator thermometers can be purchased for less than \$10 at most grocery stores and hardware stores. Be sure the stem food thermometer can be calibrated and check its calibration occasionally to ensure accuracy.

program via email, KDA.FSL@ks.gov; fax, 785-564-6779; or in person. One way for the applicant to be considered a registered mushroom identifier is to complete a certification workshop or course, but attendance at a workshop is not required to be added to the registry. Once the identifier is registered by KDA, the identifier must individually identify each mushroom sold. Mushrooms may not be harvested for sale without prior approval from the landowner, either public or private.

- Contact KDA for more information or for a list of experts (KDA.FSL@ks.gov, 785-564-6767, or fax: 785-564-6779).
- If not processed beyond cleaning and not heat-treated, cultivated mushrooms may be sold without a license. Mushrooms must be grown in protected environments and kept free from contaminants. Following the Mushroom Good Agricultural Practices is recommended: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp/mushroom-gap>. Mushrooms should not be packaged to be sealed from normal atmosphere (such as vacuum packing or heat-shrink plastic). Any plastic film used to package fresh mushrooms must be visibly perforated to allow air circulation to the mushrooms. Studies have shown that this can be accomplished with a minimum of two 3.0 mm (approximately 1/8 inch) holes situated over the top of the tray. Alternatively, lines of perforations which provide an air exchange equivalent to the 3.0 mm holes are acceptable. Additional information is available from: www.americanmushroom.org/food-safety/food-safety-training-kit/
- Offer clean produce. If appropriate, wash produce with potable water before selling. Remove visible dirt from potatoes, onions, and other products where washing would reduce quality or increase spoilage.
- Water used to “freshen” produce at market must be potable (suitable for drinking).
- Transport produce to market in clean boxes or containers.

Selling live plants at a farmers market

- *If someone selling live plants (including “living greens,” such as microgreens still growing in their grow trays) collects MORE than \$10,000 annually in gross receipts from the live plant sales, they are required to have a live plant dealer license.*
- Live plants include any living plant, cultivated or wild, or any part thereof, that can be propagated, EXCEPT for the following:
 1. field and forage crops;
 2. seeds of any kind;
 3. cut flowers and cut greenery not used for propagation; and
 4. fruits and vegetables used for food or feed. If someone selling live plants is exempt from the requirements of a live plant dealer license, the vendor still needs to request the exemption by filling out an application from <https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/live-plant-dealer-application.pdf>
- More information and an application are available from the

KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/live-plant-dealer> or by calling 785-564-6700.

Selling unique agricultural products (live birds, manure, worms, compost, etc.)

There are currently no official state requirements for selling agricultural products such as live chickens, manure, worms, compost, etc. at farmers markets. Vendors should check with the market where they are selling, as well as to see if there are any local policies restricting the sale of these products. Contact KDA with any additional questions: KDA.FSL@ks.gov or 785-564-6700 or <https://agriculture.ks.gov/contact-us>.

Offering product samples

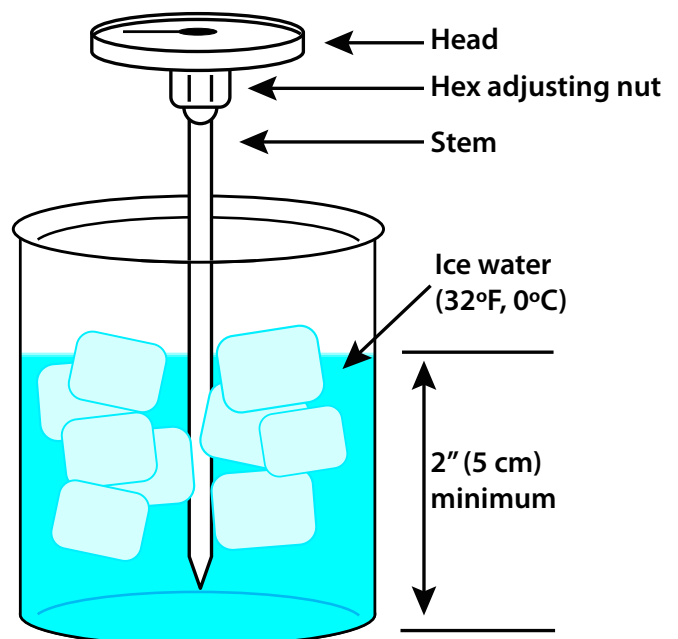
Providing samples at a farmers market is allowed if certain conditions are met. The fact sheet *Sampling Safely at Kansas Farmers Markets, Farm Stands, and Related Events* contains detailed information on sampling and is available at bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3311.pdf

Note: There is NO limit to the number of times per year that samples can be offered. Any food product legal to sell can be sampled. Wine can also be sampled, but the vendor must obtain a special event permit from the Kansas Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (www.ksrevenue.org/abc.html).

Calibrating a thermometer

Thermometers must be used to measure the temperature of food that is sold or provided as samples if that food requires temperature control for safety. That thermometer must be properly calibrated before each day's use to ensure accuracy, following the procedure below:

1. Fill a cup with ice.
2. Add enough water so that there is at least 2 inches of liquid in the bottom of the cup.
3. Leave the thermometer in the cup for at least 2 minutes to equilibrate.
4. Read the thermometer. If it does not read 32°F, adjust



the thermometer reading according to the thermometer instructions — often by turning (with a pliers) the hex adjusting nut immediately below the thermometer head. Digital thermometers may not be adjustable and should be replaced if inaccurate.

5. If adjustments were made, recheck the temperature reading in ice water.

Keep in mind the following tips:

- Be sure that your thermometer is designed for the temperature range in which it will be used. Thermometers designed only for hot foods are discouraged because the ice water temperature check is not possible.
 - Hot foods: 135°F to at least 165°F
 - Cold foods: at least 0°F to 41°F
- Temperatures should be taken once per hour to ensure the foods are the proper temperature.

Selling Prepared Foods and Baked Goods

*****Practices below that are REQUIRED by state regulations are listed in bold and italics. All other practices listed are strongly recommended for food safety.***

Selling Prepared Foods (ready-for-immediate-consumption foods that require temperature control for safety)

Please refer to KSRE/KDA publication *Food Handling Guidelines for Exempt Food Vendors* (<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3472.pdf>) for more information on the licensing requirements for selling prepared foods for immediate consumption.

How do I get a Food Establishment License?

Vendors must complete and submit a license application¹⁵ along with the appropriate fees, which includes an application and an annual license fee that varies depending on the type and size of operation. The facility must also pass a KDA licensing inspection. Most farmers market vendors will also need to complete the Mobile Unit Log¹⁶, providing information to KDA on the city or cities where you will be operating. The equipment required depends on the menu items served. In general, the following ***is required to be in your farmers market stand when selling foods ready for immediate consumption***¹⁷:

- Hand washing facilities.
- Ability to control temperature of perishable foods.
- Potable water (drinking water) supply.
- Sewage storage tank and ability to transport for proper disposal in a sanitary sewer (not a storm sewer).

What are the regulations for selling prepared (or

¹⁵ Available from: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/food-safety-lodging/food-safety-licenses> or by contacting the KDA Food Safety and Lodging program at KDA.FSL@ks.gov or 785-564-6767.

¹⁶ http://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/rc-food-safety/mobile_unit_log.pdf?sfvrsn=2

¹⁷ More detailed requirements are listed in the Kansas Food Code (2012): https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/fsl-handouts/2012_kda_food_code_12_14_12.pdf

shelf stable) foods through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)?

The regulations for each type of product would be similar to those for selling at a farmers market as it is generally considered a direct-to-consumer sale. The regulations would also vary depending on the type of business relationship. Contact the KDA Food Safety and Lodging program for more information.

Selling baked goods (breads, cakes, cookies, pies, etc.)

- Products should be proportioned and pre-packaged in clean, new wrappings, jars, or bags.
 - Packages should be sealed and not be opened to sell part of the contents.
 - If a vendor displays products in bulk and then pulls out individual orders for customers onsite, the vendor must have handwashing facilities in their booth.

Selling jams, jellies, and shelf-stable canned foods

See KSRE publication “Selling Safe Canned Foods in Kansas” <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3555.pdf> for more information on selling canned foods.

Selling refrigerated/frozen processed foods

Examples include garlic-in-oil mixtures, and other products containing ingredients that require temperature control for safety.

• ***Requirements for selling include:***

- ***Producer must have the appropriate KDA Food License (likely a Food Establishment License).***
 - The facility must be suitable for the process to obtain a license.
 - The license is for the **producer** in a specific facility. You **cannot** operate under someone else’s license unless they are willing to take on the liability.
- ***Product must be labeled according to the food labeling requirements listed in the baked goods section.***
- ***Proper temperature (<41°F for refrigerated, <0°F for frozen) must be maintained at the market.***
- Processed food containing 2% or more cooked meat or cooked poultry by weight or more than 3% raw meat by weight that is sold wholesale (not direct-to-consumer) refrigerated or frozen must be processed at a USDA or KDA meat inspected facility.
- Most non-specialized processed food, such as frozen bierocks, can use the 6-day exemption of not requiring a license. The product can be made on day one and each day they are sold adds up to a total of 6 days without requiring a license. However, the producer must follow Kansas Administrative Regulations (KAR) 4-28-33 “Sanitation and hygiene requirements for exempt food establishments.” More details also in KAR 4-28-34 (Exemption from licensure; definitions).
- If a licensed restaurant is selling products such as salsa at a farmers market, the restaurant would not need an additional license if the salsa formulation has been confirmed as

an acid food and it is packaged at the restaurant. If not, then the restaurant would need an additional mobile food establishment license for the point of sale, if done more than 6 times in a year at any location other than the licensed location (the restaurant).

Selling Meat, Eggs, and Dairy Products

Selling meat and poultry products

*****Practices below that are REQUIRED by KDA regulations are listed in bold and italics. All other practices listed are strongly recommended for food safety.***

Meat and poultry products (raw or processed)¹⁸ must meet the following requirements:

- ***Meat labeled as “Custom – Not for Sale” cannot be used for retail sales.***
- ***All meat and poultry products must be slaughtered and processed in either a USDA or KDA fully inspected facility and labeled properly for resale.***
- Poultry growers raising fewer than 1,000 birds/year can slaughter and sell these birds direct-to-consumer at their own facility without registration or inspection. The same is true for rabbits, but the exemption limit is 250 head/year.
 - ***Growers selling 1,001 to 20,000 birds/year must register their exemption from inspection with the KDA Meat & Poultry Inspection Program by obtaining a KDA Poultry Wholesaler license with a poultry exemption.*** Registration form and more details available at https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/meat-and-poultry/poultry-exemption-5-1-19.pdf?sfvrsn=43488bc1_4
 - ***Poultry growers raising more than 20,000 birds/year must only sell product that has been slaughtered and processed at an inspected facility.***
 - ***When selling meat either wholesale or direct-to-consumer, product must be slaughtered and processed under USDA or KDA inspection at a KDA or USDA fully inspected facility.***
- ***Meat packaging labels must be approved by the KDA Meat and Poultry program or USDA and all labels must be applied by the inspected facility. Only a farm label, with business name and contact information only, may be applied by the business.***
 - ***Label claims such as grain or grass fed and raised without antibiotics must be registered (at no cost) with KDA¹⁹, including provision of appropriate documentation for approval.***
- ***Meat products must be held, stored, and transported in a clean and sanitary environment, to keep products wholesome.*** This includes having a proper rodent and insect control program.

If a vendor sells only products bearing the mark of inspection in the original packaging, they must have a KDA Meat & Poultry

¹⁸ Products containing 2% or more cooked meat or cooked poultry or more than 3% raw meat by weight are considered meat and poultry products.

¹⁹ Contact the KDA Meat and Poultry program at 785-564-6776 for more information on registering label claims and label requirements. Information on the meanings of meat label claims is available from: bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3209.pdf



Wholesaler License for the point of sale.

- ***Any person engaged in the distribution of inspected and passed meat, meat products, poultry, or poultry products within the state of Kansas must obtain a KDA Meat & Poultry Wholesaler license through the KDA Meat & Poultry Inspection Program. This includes selling both direct-to-consumer and to wholesale accounts (i.e. restaurants, retail stores).***
- ***License must be renewed annually, at a cost of \$25/year²⁰.***
- ***Raw product must be transported and sold solidly frozen (0°F or below) or fresh (36°F or below) in freezers or coolers equipped with properly calibrated thermometers.***

Other regulations and recommended best practices for selling meat and poultry

- Coolers and ice packs or ice can be used to safely transport and hold meats. ***Vendors must have a thermometer.*** Check the temperature occasionally (about once/hour) with a stem food thermometer²¹.
- ***In storage and display, ensure that the juices of one species (for example, beef, chicken, pork, etc.) do not drip onto and contaminate another species, or any other type of product, with bacteria.***
 - Bag meat separately from any other products (particularly fresh produce, ready-to-eat foods, baked goods) to prevent cross-contamination.
- ***Label the product with “Safe Handling Instructions”²² and understand these safe practices so that you can explain them to customers to increase the likelihood that the customer will handle the product safely.***

Selling eggs

If you have 50 or fewer hens and all sales are direct to consumers, you are exempt from all requirements for selling eggs unless you choose to grade your eggs or sell them for resale. You can choose to sell ungraded or graded eggs.

- ***Selling graded eggs²³ requires obtaining a Kansas Egg License and paying inspection fees.***

²⁰ License application available from: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/meat-and-poultry-inspection/registration>

²¹ Stem food thermometers and refrigerator thermometers can be purchased for around \$10 at most grocery stores, variety stores, and hardware stores. Quick-read digital thermometers usually cost only a little more. Be sure the food thermometer can be calibrated and check its calibration occasionally.

²² These instructions are available from: https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media_file/2021-08/Safe_Handling2.pdf

²³ More information on egg sales requirements, including for selling graded eggs is available: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/food-safety-lodging/food-safety-egg-lodging-app-forms>

Regardless of flock size, the items listed below (which are requirements for vendors with 51 or more hens) are strongly recommended best practices to reduce the risk of illness. Although it is not required for vendors with fewer than 50 hens, it is strongly recommended to keep eggs at temperatures below 45°F for safety. (Find more information in the Egg Fact Sheet at <https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/rc-food-safety/egg-fact-sheet-selling-eggs-without-a-license.pdf>.)

If you have 51 to 249 hens, the following requirements must be met to sell eggs at a farmers market:

- **Eggs must be kept at or below 45°F when transporting, storing and displaying.**
 - **This requires that eggs are in a cooler or similar temperature-controlled container.**
 - If you want to display an open egg carton on your table, you should hard boil then air cool those eggs and mark the display with a sign stating “For display only. Not for sale.”
- **If re-using egg cartons, make sure they are clean and free of any foreign materials,** to prevent the transfer of bacteria to the eggs.
 - **Mark out all incorrect information, such as the previous producer’s name and address, grade and previous pack and expiration dates.**
- **Eggs must be washed and cleaned before sale.**
- **All egg cartons must be labeled with the following:**
 - Name and address of the producer
 - Quantity of eggs
 - Identity if other than chicken eggs (for example, duck, goose, etc.)
 - Note that eggs sold graded have additional labeling requirements and require a Kansas egg license and inspection fees.
- **If all sales are direct to consumers,** you can choose to sell graded or ungraded eggs (selling graded eggs requires a Kansas egg license and inspection fees). **If you are selling ungraded eggs, you must label the carton as being ungraded.**

If you have more than 249 hens, you are required to obtain a Kansas Egg License, sell only graded eggs, and pay inspection fees.

Note: Eggs other than chicken eggs can be sold and must meet the same requirements as listed above for each flock size but can only be sold ungraded.

- Baluts (fertilized eggs incubated for a period of time shorter than required for hatching) can be sold but must follow certain requirements. (More information on selling baluts is available in the KDA Egg Fact Sheet.²⁴)

Selling dairy products

The following requirements must be met:

- **All dairy products sold at a farmers market must be produced in a KDA-inspected dairy processing plant.**
 - KDA Dairy Inspectors are available to help in planning

stages of facility.

- Dairy processing plants are inspected about six times per year, with frequent testing of pasteurization equipment and sample testing.
- **Labeling and label claims for dairy products must be approved by KDA Dairy Inspection program²⁵.**
- **Vendors that are selling directly to the consumer must have a KDA Food Establishment license for the point of sale (at the farmers market).**
- **Milk, cheese, and other non-frozen dairy products must be maintained at <45°F at all times for safety** and should be <40°F for product quality.
- **Frozen dairy products, such as ice cream must be solidly frozen and < 0°F at all times.**
- Coolers, refrigerated vehicles or freezers may be used.
 - **All of the above must be equipped with properly calibrated thermometers.**
- **All fluid milk sold at a farmers market in Kansas must be pasteurized.**
 - Raw milk can only be sold on the farm.
 - More information available from: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-inspection/dairy-industry>

References and other resources:

- Kansas Food Code 2012: https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/statutes-foodsafety-lodging/kda_food_code_7_1_2012.pdf?sfvrsn=70daac1_6
- Kansas Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Lodging Program website: agriculture.ks.gov/fsl
- Kansas Department of Agriculture Meat & Poultry Inspection Program website: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/meat-and-poultry-inspection>
- Kansas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act: https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/meat-and-poultry/kansas-meat-and-poultry-inspection-act.pdf?sfvrsn=5bcbe79b_0
- *Kansas Farmers Market Resources* and resources for consumers, producers, and organizers of farmers markets: <https://www.fromthelandofkansas.com/page/farmers-market-resources>
- *Starting a Seasonal Open-Air Market in Kansas*. K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Rural Center. 2008. <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S140.pdf>
- *Buying Guide for Kansas-Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables*. K-State Research and Extension. January 2021. <http://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf2647.pdf>
- *Vegetable Garden Planting Guide*. K-State Research and Extension. October 2017. <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf315.pdf>
- *Kansas Garden Guide*. K-State Research and Extension. 2010. <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/S51.pdf>
- Kansas State University Extension Food Safety website, including numerous publications and resources related to farmers market vendors and produce safety: www.ksre.ksu.edu/foodsafety

²⁵ Contact information for the KDA Dairy Inspection program: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-inspection/dairy-consumers>

²⁴ https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/rc-food-safety/egg-fact-sheet-last-handler-distributor.pdf?sfvrsn=2847bbc1_4

Key Contacts

Questions on?	Who to contact	Website	Email	Phone
Food Safety licensing and inspection	KDA Food Safety and Lodging program	https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/food-safety-lodging	KDA.FSL@ks.gov	785-564-6767
Value added product process authority recipe approval, product development, Better Process Control School, HACCP, etc.	Kansas State University Value-Added/ Product Development Lab	www.ksre.ksu.edu/kvafl	kvafl@ksu.edu	785-532-1294
Sales tax information and alcohol regulations	Kansas Department of Revenue	www.ksrevenue.org/	tac@kdor.ks.gov	785-368-8222
Filing as a business entity	Kansas Secretary of State	www.kssos.org/main.html		785-296-4564
General information on Kansas farmers markets, registering a farmers market	From the Land of Kansas program	https://www.fromthelandofkansas.com/page/farmers-market-resources	farmersmarkets@kda.ks.gov	785-564-6755
Accepting Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) coupons	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1041/Kansas-Senior-Farmers-Market-Nutrition-P		785-291-3742
Accepting SNAP (Benefits Cards) from customers	USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply-to-accept		
Scale testing, method of selling produce	KDA Weights and Measures	agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/weight-measures		785-564-6700
Selling live plants	KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program	agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/live-plant-dealer_		785-564-6700
Meat and poultry inspection and registering of label claims	KDA Meat and Poultry program	agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/meat-and-poultry-inspection/general-information		785-564-6776
Questions on dairy processing, licensing, and product labeling	KDA Dairy Inspection program	agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dairy-inspection/dairy-consumers	Jeff.Jones@ks.gov	785-564-6700
Business consulting for small businesses	Kansas Small Business Development Center	www.kansasbdc.net/	info@ksbdc.net	English, 800-949-7661; or Spanish, 800-707-0580
Information and personal assistance to start or maintain a Kansas business	Kansas Business One Stop	https://ksbiz.kansas.gov	ks-helpcenter@egov.com	800-4-KANSAS or 785-296-5059
Small business development assistance	Kansas Department of Commerce	https://www.kansascommerce.gov/		785-296-3481
Information on funding opportunities for rural food businesses	USDA Rural Development	www.rd.usda.gov/ks		785-271-2700
Resources and information on Sustainable Agriculture	Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops	kansassustainableag.org/	kebert@k-state.edu	913-856-2335, ext. 102
General farmers market food safety best practices questions; produce safety	Kansas State University Extension Food Safety Program	www.ksre.ksu.edu/foodsafety	Inwadike@ksu.edu	913-307-7391
Information on production of fruits, vegetables, and live plants	Kansas State University Extension Horticulture Program; Specialty Crop Growers Association	https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/ ; https://www.kscga.org/		785-532-6173

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Prepared by

Dr. Londa Nwadike, Kansas State University/University of Missouri
Extension Food Safety Specialist

22201 W. Innovation Dr
Olathe, KS 66061
913-307-7391
lnwadike@ksu.edu

105 East 5th St., Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64106
nwadikel@missouri.edu

Fact sheet reviewed by:

- Karen Blakeslee, Kansas State University Value Added Foods Lab
- Adam Inman, Kansas Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Lodging Program
- Jeremy Schooler, Kansas Department of Agriculture Meat & Poultry Inspection Program

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