

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Alabama

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Ala. Code §22-20-5.1.

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED	LAST VERIFIED
Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	Good	B	67	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

OFFICIAL STATE HANDOUT

Alabama Cottage Food Law — Official Guidance Summary

Alabama Department of Public Health · Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · Alabama Department of Public Health · <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/ALISON/SearchableInstruments/2021RS/PrintFiles/SB160-enr.pdf>

Alabama's cottage food rules are set by Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. The summary below is drawn from Crosodo's verified statute research and official agency guidance. Always confirm current requirements on the state agency website before you sell.

Program basics

What law governs cottage food in Alabama?

- Alabama Cottage Food Production Law

What is the annual sales cap?

- None

Is registration or a permit required?

- Yes

Is a food handler certificate required?

- Yes (specific course)

Are kitchen inspections required?

- No

Allowed products and sales channels

What foods are allowed?

- Allowed foods include non-potentially hazardous foods such as baked goods (cakes, breads, pastries, pies), jams and jellies, candy, dried herbs and vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, and fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with an approved acidity level.
- Online and in-state shipping are permitted as of the 2021 amendment.

What foods are prohibited?

- Prohibited foods include meat, poultry, and fish products, all perishable or temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, and juices. Acidified foods such as pickles require pH testing by an approved authority before sale. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

Can I sell to retailers or restaurants (indirect sales)?

- Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.

Labeling

What labeling is required?

- Labels must include in at least 10-point font: the common or usual name of the food, the producer's name and home or P.O.
- Box address, a statement that the food is not inspected by the department or local health department, all ingredients in descending order of predominance, and a disclaimer that the food may contain allergens.

Statute excerpt

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

What does the Alabama cottage food statute say?

- (a) For purposes of this section, the following words have the following meanings: (1) COTTAGE FOOD. A non-potentially hazardous food that has been prepared in a person's home that does not require time or temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation and that does not include meat, poultry, or fish. The term includes all of the following: a. Cakes, breads, Danish pastries, donuts, pastries, and pies. b. Jam, jellies, and fruit preserves. c. Candy. d. Dried and dehydrated herbs, herb mixes, vegetables, or fruits. e. Roasted coffee. f. Dried baking mixes. g. Fermented or preserved vegetables or fruit that do not result in the production of alcohol and that have an acidity level allowed by the department. (2) COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATION. A person operating out of his or her home who meets the following requirements: a. Produces cottage food for sale. b. Sells the foods produced under paragraph a. only directly to consumers, whether in-person, by phone, or online, in the state. c. Delivers the foods produced under paragraph a. directly to consumers in the state, whether in person, through an agent of the producer, or by mail. (b) A cottage food production operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit issued by the county health department.
- (c) Neither the State Department of Public Health nor a county health department may regulate the production of food at a cottage food production operation except as provided by this section.

Official sources**Where should I verify these rules?**

- State agency cottage food page: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>
- Statute: <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

Summarized from official Alabama cottage food statute research and agency guidance. Agency rules change — verify on the official site before relying on this information.

Table of Contents

Crosodo Index* (1 = most baker-friendly county per our model). See methodology at end of report. (Original pop rank available in data for reference.)

Executive summary	6
Alabama Cottage Food Production Law — Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	8
County-level rules (67 counties)	9
#1969* Autauga County · Prattville	10
#1828* Baldwin County · Bay Minette	13
#1631* Barbour County · Clayton	16
#1632* Bibb County · Centreville	19
#1950* Blount County · Oneonta	21
#1633* Bullock County · Union Springs	24
#1635* Butler County · Greenville	26
#757* Calhoun County · Anniston	28
#1636* Chambers County · Lafayette	31
#1637* Cherokee County · Centre	33
#1638* Chilton County · Clanton	35
#1639* Choctaw County · Butler	37
#1640* Clarke County · Grove Hill	39
#1641* Clay County · Ashland	41
#1642* Cleburne County · Heflin	43
#2281* Coffee County · Elba	45
#2289* Colbert County · Tuscumbia	47
#1643* Conecuh County · Evergreen	50
#1644* Coosa County · Rockford	52
#1645* Covington County · Andalusia	54
#1646* Crenshaw County · Luverne	56
#1602* Cullman County · Cullman	58
#806* Dale County · Ozark	61
#1647* Dallas County · Selma	64
#1596* DeKalb County · Fort Payne	66
#1603* Elmore County · Wetumpka	68
#1648* Escambia County · Brewton	71
#1758* Etowah County · Gadsden	73
#1649* Fayette County · Fayette	76
#808* Franklin County · Russellville	78
#797* Geneva County · Geneva	81
#809* Greene County · Eutaw	84
#810* Hale County · Greensboro	87
#829* Henry County · Abbeville	90

#1722*Houston County · Dothan	93
#1978*Jackson County · Scottsboro	96
#1761*Jefferson County · Birmingham	99
#828* Lamar County · Vernon	102
#1769*Lauderdale County · Florence	105
#827* Lawrence County · Moulton	108
#1128*Lee County · Opelika	111
#1755*Limestone County · Athens	114
#826* Lowndes County · Hayneville	117
#825* Macon County · Tuskegee	120
#2785*Madison County · Huntsville	123
#824* Marengo County · Linden	126
#823* Marion County · Hamilton	129
#1764*Marshall County · Guntersville	132
#2782*Mobile County · Mobile	135
#822* Monroe County · Monroeville	138
#1824*Montgomery County · Montgomery	141
#779* Morgan County · Decatur	143
#820* Perry County · Marion	146
#819* Pickens County · Carrollton	149
#818* Pike County · Troy	152
#817* Randolph County · Wedowee	155
#1948*Russell County · Phenix City	158
#1254*Shelby County · Columbiana	160
#1770*St. Clair County	163
#816* Sumter County · Livingston	166
#1609*Talladega County · Talladega	169
#815* Tallapoosa County · Dadeville	171
#1821*Tuscaloosa County · Tuscaloosa	174
#1586*Walker County · Jasper	176
#813* Washington County · Chatom	178
#812* Wilcox County · Camden	181
#811* Winston County · Double Springs	184

Executive summary

This report covers the Alabama cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 67 Alabama counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

No — Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.

RESEARCH NOTES

The 2021 amendment (SB 160 / Act 2021-461) removed the prior sales cap, expanded the allowed foods list, added online sales and in-state shipping. Before selling, producer must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course with free videos and \$25 exam) and get approval from local county health department. Applications and fees vary by county; typically require proof of training, a sample label, and a product list. State dept URL (alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html) returned 404 as of verification date; current info available via Forrager and Justia. Note: Justia cites §22-20-5.1 while input cites §22-20-5.2 — Justia and the enrolled bill both reference §22-20-5.1 as the operative cottage food section.

TOP QUESTIONS HOME BAKERS ASK ABOUT ALABAMA

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

Not specified in state data — check county

PETS ALLOWED?

Varies by county — see below

STATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED?

Yes

HEALTH DEPT INSPECTION?

No

SALES CAP

—

ONLINE / SHIPPING ALLOWED?

No (Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Varies by county — see county details below

HOME KITCHEN BASELINE

Varies by county

County rules can add restrictions on top of the state baseline. Always verify with your local health department and planning office.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR BAKERS IN ALABAMA

- No annual sales cap (Freedom tier) — one of the most permissive states.
- Home kitchens are generally allowed; check your specific county for extra rules.
- Most counties do not require a separate dedicated kitchen or home occupation permit.
- Pets are usually allowed, but keep them out of the production area.
- Label must clearly state “Made in a home kitchen” (exact wording varies slightly by county).
- Direct sales (farmers markets, on-site, online to end consumers) are broadly allowed; indirect/wholesale has more limits.

PORCH / ON-SITE SALES

These are frequently more restricted by local zoning than by cottage food law. Check the county-level "On-site / porch pickup" answers and confirm with county planning.

RECOMMENDED FIRST STEPS

1. Confirm your county rules using the county sections below or the standalone county PDF.
2. Check if you need any local business license or home occupation permit (most don't).
3. Prepare labels with the required "Made in a home kitchen" statement.
4. Register with the state if your projected sales or product type requires it (check the registration field).
5. Start with direct sales at farmers markets or on-site — easiest path in Alabama.

Alabama Cottage Food Production Law

CITATION

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

ENACTED

2014

LAST AMENDED

2021

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

Allowed foods

Allowed foods include non-potentially hazardous foods such as baked goods (cakes, breads, pastries, pies), jams and jellies, candy, dried herbs and vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, and fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with an approved acidity level. Online and in-state shipping are permitted as of the 2021 amendment.

Prohibited foods

Prohibited foods include meat, poultry, and fish products, all perishable or temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, and juices. Acidified foods such as pickles require pH testing by an approved authority before sale. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

Labeling requirements

Labels must include in at least 10-point font: the common or usual name of the food, the producer's name and home or P.O. Box address, a statement that the food is not inspected by the department or local health department, all ingredients in descending order of predominance, and a disclaimer that the food may contain allergens.

Statutory text – verbatim excerpt

STATUTE EXCERPT – VERBATIM

(a) For purposes of this section, the following words have the following meanings: (1) COTTAGE FOOD. A non-potentially hazardous food that has been prepared in a person's home that does not require time or temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation and that does not include meat, poultry, or fish. The term includes all of the following: a. Cakes, breads, Danish pastries, donuts, pastries, and pies. b. Jam, jellies, and fruit preserves. c. Candy. d. Dried and dehydrated herbs, herb mixes, vegetables, or fruits. e. Roasted coffee. f. Dried baking mixes. g. Fermented or preserved vegetables or fruit that do not result in the production of alcohol and that have an acidity level allowed by the department. (2) COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATION. A person operating out of his or her home who meets the following requirements: a. Produces cottage food for sale. b. Sells the foods produced under paragraph a. only directly to consumers, whether in-person, by phone, or online, in the state. c. Delivers the foods produced under paragraph a. directly to consumers in the state, whether in person, through an agent of the producer, or by mail. (b) A cottage food production operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit issued by the county health department. (c) Neither the State Department of Public Health nor a county health department may regulate the production of food at a cottage food production operation except as provided by this section.

Source: <https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

Official sources

Statute <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

State dept page <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Extension service <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/foods/alabama-cottage-food-law/>

Forrager.com <https://forrager.com/law/alabama/>

State dept of agriculture / health: **Alabama Department of Public Health**

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 67 Alabama counties below are listed alphabetically (Crosodo Index* shown for reference – see methodology at end of report). The Crosodo Index is our internal ranking of U.S. counties by how permissive the combined state + county rules are for home cottage food operations.

ALABAMA: AUTAUGA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1969* · FIPS 01001 · Prattville

Autauga County

Population 58,761 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online and in-state shipping allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Autauga County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list. Prattville is close to Montgomery — operators should contact the Autauga County Health Department for specific fee and application requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; county health department approves initial application.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online and in-state shipping allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; county health department approves initial application.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Autauga County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list. Prattville is close to Montgomery — operators should contact the Autauga County Health Department for specific fee and application requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Autauga County Health Department procedures (county health department approval required); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Autauga County	Elmore County	Montgomery County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review f...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application req...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	No specific statutory requirements.	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing
POPULATION	58,761	87,694	228,132

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama requires county health department approval – Autauga County Health Dept. (Prattville office) should be contacted. Autauga County is in central Alabama near Montgomery. Acidified foods require pH testing. The 2021 amendment removed the prior sales cap and added online/in-state shipping.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

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

ALABAMA: BALDWIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1828* · FIPS 01003 · Bay Minette

Baldwin County

Population 233,420 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department approval. Applications and fees vary by county. Sample label, product list, and proof of training required. No sales cap (removed 2021). Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021 amendment). Direct sales only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Baldwin County municipalities may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Producers must obtain Baldwin County Health Department approval as part of the cottage food registration process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial county health department approval required; Baldwin County Health Department reviews application)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department approval. Applications and fees vary by county. Sample label, product list, and proof of training required. No sales cap (removed 2021). Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021 amendment). Direct sales only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well may require testing per county health dept
HANDWASHING	State-approved food safety course required before selling
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial county health department approval required; Baldwin County Health Department reviews application
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Baldwin County municipalities may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Producers must obtain Baldwin County Health Department approval as part of the cottage food registration process.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to consumers; online sales and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale to retail establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Baldwin County Health Department registration

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Baldwin County	Mobile County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only to consumers; online sales and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale to retail establishments.	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishm...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department ap...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or AC...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	233,420	413,878	23,058

RESEARCH NOTES

Baldwin County AL follows Alabama state baseline (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1). Alabama requires county health dept approval with varying fees by county — Baldwin County Health Department administers. No sales cap since 2021 amendment (SB 160). State law confirmed. No specific Baldwin County Health Department cottage food page found in search. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baldwincountyal.gov>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: BARBOUR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1631* · FIPS 01005 · Clayton

Barbour County

Population 24,358 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within Alabama). Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Barbour County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement for home occupation permit for cottage food. Barbour County is rural with limited zoning. No county-level home occupation ordinance found. Check with Barbour County Commission for any local business license requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations are not food service establishments and not subject to routine health department inspection per §22-20-5.1(b). Complaints may trigger review.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within Alabama). Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Barbour County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations are not food service establishments and not subject to routine health department inspection per §22-20-5.1(b). Complaints may trigger review.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement for home occupation permit for cottage food. Barbour County is rural with limited zoning. No county-level home occupation ordinance found. Check with Barbour County Commission for any local business license requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Barbour County	Bullock County	Henry County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	24,877	10,328	17,282

RESEARCH NOTES

Barbour County is a rural, small county in southeast Alabama. State law §22-20-5.1 governs cottage food; county health dept (ADPH Barbour) handles review form submission. No county-level overrides found. Producers must submit review form to Barbour County Health Department before selling. Food safety course required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/barbour/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/barbour/>

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

ALABAMA: BIBB COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1632* · FIPS 01007 · Centreville

Bibb County

Population 22,258 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Bibb County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Bibb County is rural with limited zoning capacity. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Bibb County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Bibb County is rural with limited zoning capacity. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Bibb County	Chilton County	Hale County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	22,251	45,140	14,742

RESEARCH NOTES

Bibb County is a small rural county in central Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found. Producers must submit review form to Bibb County Health Department.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bibb/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bibb/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/bibb-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: BLOUNT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1950* · FIPS 01009 · Oneonta

Blount CountyPopulation 59,077 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department before selling. No sales cap. Direct sales only (no wholesale/retail). Online and in-state shipping allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Blount County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course with free videos and \$25 exam) and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection specified; county health department approves initial application.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department before selling. No sales cap. Direct sales only (no wholesale/retail). Online and in-state shipping allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection specified; county health department approves initial application.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Blount County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course with free videos and \$25 exam) and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale to retail stores or restaurants.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Blount County Health Department procedures (county health department approval required); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Blount County	Walker County	Cullman County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale to retail stores or re...	Direct sales only; online sales and in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No interstate shipping.	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) before selling. Application to local county health d...	Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved f...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.
POPULATION	59,077	64,978	88,284

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama requires county health department approval, making the county level significant in AL. The 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed the prior sales cap and added online/in-state shipping. Operators must get county health dept approval — Blount County Health Dept. should be contacted directly. Food safety course is mandatory. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing by an approved authority. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

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

ALABAMA: BULLOCK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1633* · FIPS 01011 · Union Springs

Bullock CountyPopulation 9,901 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Bullock County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Bullock County is very rural with minimal local regulatory infrastructure. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Bullock County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Bullock County is very rural with minimal local regulatory infrastructure. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Bullock County	Barbour County	Macon County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	10,328	24,877	19,198

RESEARCH NOTES

Bullock County is a very small, rural county in central Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found. Producers must submit review form to Bullock County Health Department.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bullock/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bullock/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/bullock-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: BUTLER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1635* · FIPS 01013 · Greenville

Butler County

Population 18,256 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Butler County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Butler County is rural. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Butler County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Butler County is rural. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Butler County	Conecuh County	Covington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	18,981	11,576	37,542

RESEARCH NOTES

Butler County is a rural county in south Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found. Note: Butler County is listed in the ADPH Southeastern District with coverage for Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike counties.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/butler/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/butler/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/butler-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CALHOUN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #757* · FIPS 01015 · Anniston

Calhoun County

Population 116,162 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (as amended 2021); no sales cap; food handler cert required; no inspection; registration required; direct sales only (online/in-state shipping allowed) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain county health department approval. Calhoun County Environmental Health administers local approvals.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama cottage food producers must obtain county health department approval from Calhoun County Environmental Health. Application requires proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. General home occupation zoning permits may apply separately.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications and may investigate complaints.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain county health department approval. Calhoun County Environmental Health administers local approvals.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification (state-approved course) required before selling.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods require pH testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications and may investigate complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alabama cottage food producers must obtain county health department approval from Calhoun County Environmental Health. Application requires proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. General home occupation zoning permits may apply separately.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (2021 amendment). No interstate shipping. No wholesale or retail store channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Calhoun County	Etowah County	St. Clair County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Yes	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (2021 amendment). No interstate shipping. No wholesale or retail store channels.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and obta...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods require pH testing.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	116,162	103,348	91,719

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (AL tier Good). Calhoun County includes Anniston (pop ~22K) and Oxford in northeastern Alabama. No county-specific URLs provided. Alabama county health departments vary in fee structure; contact Calhoun County Environmental Health for current specifics. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: CHAMBERS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1636* · FIPS 01017 · Lafayette

Chambers County

Population 33,813 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Chambers County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Chambers County is rural/small. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Chambers County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Chambers County is rural/small. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Chambers County	Randolph County	Tallapoosa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	34,612	22,179	41,251

RESEARCH NOTES

Chambers County is a rural county in east Alabama near the Georgia border. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/chambers/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/chambers/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/chambers-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CHEROKEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1637* · FIPS 01019 · Centre

Cherokee County

Population 26,138 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Cherokee County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Cherokee County is rural/mountainous in northeast Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Cherokee County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Cherokee County is rural/mountainous in northeast Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Cherokee County	Cleburne County	Calhoun County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (2021 amendment). No interstate shipping. No wholesale or retail store channels.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and obta...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods require pH testing.
POPULATION	25,069	15,144	116,162

RESEARCH NOTES

Cherokee County is a rural county in northeast Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/cherokee/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/cherokee/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/cherokee-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CHILTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1638* · FIPS 01021 · Clanton

Chilton County

Population 47,262 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Chilton County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Chilton County is rural/suburban. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Chilton County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Chilton County is rural/suburban. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Chilton County	Bibb County	Coosa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	45,140	22,251	10,329

RESEARCH NOTES

Chilton County is a rural county in central Alabama known for peach orchards. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/chilton/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/chilton/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/chilton-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CHOCTAW COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1639* · FIPS 01023 · Butler

Choctaw County

Population 12,052 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Choctaw County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Choctaw County is very rural with minimal local regulatory infrastructure. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Choctaw County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Choctaw County is very rural with minimal local regulatory infrastructure. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Choctaw County	Clarke County	Marengo County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	12,669	23,058	19,180

RESEARCH NOTES

Choctaw County is one of Alabama’s smallest and most rural counties in the southwest. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/choctaw/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/choctaw/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/choctaw-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CLARKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1640* · FIPS 01025 · Grove Hill

Clarke County

Population 22,142 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Clarke County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Clarke County is rural in southwest Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Clarke County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Clarke County is rural in southwest Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Clarke County	Choctaw County	Marengo County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	23,058	12,669	19,180

RESEARCH NOTES

Clarke County is a rural county in southwest Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/clarke/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/clarke/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/clarke-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CLAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1641* · FIPS 01027 · Ashland

Clay County

Population 14,239 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Clay County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Clay County is very rural in east central Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Clay County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Clay County is very rural in east central Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Clay County	Cleburne County	Coosa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	14,209	15,144	10,329

RESEARCH NOTES

Clay County is a very rural county in east central Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/clay/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/clay/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/clay-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CLEBURNE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1642* · FIPS 01029 · Heflin

Cleburne CountyPopulation 15,905 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Cleburne County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Cleburne County is rural in northeast Alabama near Georgia border. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Cleburne County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Cleburne County is rural in northeast Alabama near Georgia border. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Cleburne County	Cherokee County	Clay County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	15,144	25,069	14,209

RESEARCH NOTES

Cleburne County is a rural county in northeast Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/cleburne/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/cleburne/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/cleburne-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: COFFEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2281* · FIPS 01031 · Elba

Coffee County

Population 53,559 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (amended 2021, Act 2021-461) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to non-potentially hazardous foods. Direct sales only (no wholesale). Online sales and in-state shipping permitted since 2021. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Coffee County Health Department approval required before selling. No specific Coffee County zoning ordinance for cottage food identified. Contact Coffee County Health Department in Elba.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (ADPH or Coffee County Health Department may investigate on complaint or foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to non-potentially hazardous foods. Direct sales only (no wholesale). Online sales and in-state shipping permitted since 2021. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	Covered under food safety training requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. Acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — ADPH or Coffee County Health Department may investigate on complaint or foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Coffee County Health Department approval required before selling. No specific Coffee County zoning ordinance for cottage food identified. Contact Coffee County Health Department in Elba.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in AL statute.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Coffee County Health Department application process

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Coffee County	Dale County	Covington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to...	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. Acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water activity testing.	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	53,559	49,455	37,542

RESEARCH NOTES

Coffee County is a rural south Alabama county with Enterprise as a notable city. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline applies. Food safety course required (ACES or Learn2Serve), then county health department approval. No sales cap since 2021 amendment.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/coffee-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: COLBERT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2289* · FIPS 01033 · Tuscumbia

Colbert CountyPopulation 57,270 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (amended 2021, Act 2021-461) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (Colbert County Health Department). Products limited to non-potentially hazardous foods. Direct sales only (no wholesale to stores). Online sales and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Colbert County Health Department approval required before selling (application and fees vary; typically includes proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list). No specific county zoning ordinance cottage food override identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (ADPH or county health department may investigate upon consumer complaint or foodborne illness report.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (Colbert County Health Department). Products limited to non-potentially hazardous foods. Direct sales only (no wholesale to stores). Online sales and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement; primary residence kitchen assumed.
HANDWASHING	Covered under food safety training requirement; standard sanitation practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products only. Proper labeling and storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — ADPH or county health department may investigate upon consumer complaint or foodborne illness report.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Colbert County Health Department approval required before selling (application and fees vary; typically includes proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list). No specific county zoning ordinance cottage food override identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer. In-person sales at home, farmers markets, events. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in AL statute.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Colbert County Health Department application process

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Colbert County	Lauderdale County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer. In-person sales at home, farmers markets, events. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (...)	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products only. Proper labeling and storage required.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	57,270	94,329	32,011

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food rules found for Colbert County. State baseline applies: food safety course required (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course), then approval from Colbert County Health Department. No sales cap since 2021 amendment. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing by approved authority. Freeze-dried foods require water activity testing. No county govt or health URLs available in input; state URL may be inactive (404 reported).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: CONECUH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1643* · FIPS 01035 · Evergreen

Conecuh County

Population 11,109 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Conecuh County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Conecuh County is very rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Conecuh County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Conecuh County is very rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Conecuh County	Butler County	Covington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	11,576	18,981	37,542

RESEARCH NOTES

Conecuh County is a rural county in south Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/conecuh/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/conecuh/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/conecuh-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: COOSA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1644* · FIPS 01037 · Rockford

Coosa County

Population 10,291 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Coosa County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Coosa County is one of Alabama’s least populous counties. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Coosa County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Coosa County is one of Alabama’s least populous counties. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Coosa County	Chilton County	Clay County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	10,329	45,140	14,209

RESEARCH NOTES

Coosa County is one of Alabama’s smallest and most rural counties (one of the least populous in the US). State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/coosa/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/coosa/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/coosa-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: COVINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1645* · FIPS 01039 · Andalusia

Covington CountyPopulation 37,748 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Covington County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Covington County is rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Covington County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Covington County is rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Covington County	Butler County	Conecuh County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	37,542	18,981	11,576

RESEARCH NOTES

Covington County is a rural county in south Alabama. State law governs cottage food. Note: Covington County is listed in ADPH Southeastern District coverage. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covington/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covington/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/covington-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CRENSHAW COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1646* · FIPS 01041 · Luverne

Crenshaw County

Population 13,114 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Crenshaw County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Crenshaw County is rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Crenshaw County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Crenshaw County is rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Crenshaw County	Butler County	Covington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	13,205	18,981	37,542

RESEARCH NOTES

Crenshaw County is a rural county in south Alabama. Listed in ADPH Southeastern District. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/crenshaw/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/crenshaw/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/crenshaw-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: CULLMAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1602* · FIPS 01043 · Cullman

Cullman County

Population 88,284 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved food safety course. Must submit a cottage food review form to the local county health department (Cullman County Health Department). Direct sales to consumers only (in-person, phone, online within Alabama). No county or state health department permit required beyond the review form submission.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level home occupation permit requirement for cottage food. Cullman County and the City of Cullman may have home occupation ordinances. Producers should check with Cullman County Planning/Zoning or City of Cullman Planning Department for any home-based business requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Alabama statute §22-20-5.1(b) states that a cottage food operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit. Neither the state nor county health department may regulate cottage food production except as provided in §22-20-5.1. Inspections may occur in response to illness complaints.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved food safety course. Must submit a cottage food review form to the local county health department (Cullman County Health Department). Direct sales to consumers only (in-person, phone, online within Alabama). No county or state health department permit required beyond the review form submission.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement; standard potable water.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory handwashing infrastructure requirement; safe food handling expected.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Alabama statute §22-20-5.1(b) states that a cottage food operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit. Neither the state nor county health department may regulate cottage food production except as provided in §22-20-5.1. Inspections may occur in response to illness complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state-level home occupation permit requirement for cottage food. Cullman County and the City of Cullman may have home occupation ordinances. Producers should check with Cullman County Planning/Zoning or City of Cullman Planning Department for any home-based business requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Cullman County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State law Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 governs. Cottage food review form submitted to Cullman County Health Department.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Cullman County	Marshall County	Morgan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved f...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.
POPULATION	88,284	97,923	123,102

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law requires: (1) approved food safety course; (2) cottage food review form submitted to local county health department; (3) proper labeling per §22-20-5.1(e). The county health department role is to receive the review form, not to issue a permit. State statute confirms no food service permit is required. Cullman County Health Department administers the review form process. No specific Cullman County overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official ADPH PDF and Justia; county-specific rules not verified from county .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagfoodlawinformation.pdf>
- <https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/cullman-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: DALE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #806* · FIPS 01045 · Ozark

Dale County

Population 49,455 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in Alabama (in person, phone, online, mail). Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No meat, poultry, or fish.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Dale County health department review required (of food safety course certificate and product labels) before obtaining business license. Local county home occupation permit requirements not found in research; recommend verifying with Dale County and City of Ozark.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. No kitchen inspection. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in Alabama (in person, phone, online, mail). Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No meat, poultry, or fish.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply; no special testing required.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices; no explicit handwashing station requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. No kitchen inspection. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Dale County health department review required (of food safety course certificate and product labels) before obtaining business license. Local county home occupation permit requirements not found in research; recommend verifying with Dale County and City of Ozark.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Dale County zoning/home occupation ordinances

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Dale County	Coffee County	Houston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.	No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...	Direct to consumer. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibi...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. Acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water activity testing.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	49,455	53,559	107,040

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) allows cottage food production without kitchen inspection. Dale County includes Fort Rucker (now Fort Novosel, a U.S. Army installation). No Dale County-specific cottage food ordinances found beyond state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

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

ALABAMA: DALLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1647* · FIPS 01047 · Selma

Dallas County

Population 35,545 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Dallas County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Dallas County seat is Selma; county is rural/small city. No county-level home occupation ordinance found specific to cottage food.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Dallas County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Dallas County seat is Selma; county is rural/small city. No county-level home occupation ordinance found specific to cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Dallas County	Chilton County	Lowndes County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	38,326	45,140	10,153

RESEARCH NOTES

Dallas County is a central Alabama county (seat: Selma, known for civil rights history). State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/dallas/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/dallas/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/dallas-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: DEKALB COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1596* · FIPS 01049 · Fort Payne

DeKalb County

Population 71,680 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county govt URL provided. DeKalb County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. City of Fort Payne has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food handler course
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No county govt URL provided. DeKalb County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. City of Fort Payne has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	DeKalb County	Marshall County	Etowah County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, pou...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	71,680	97,923	103,348

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama Good-tier state. No county-specific sources available. State law allows online/in-state shipping since 2021 amendment. Food handler cert required. Pattern-verified county with no county-specific overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/dekalb-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: ELMORE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1603* · FIPS 01051 · Wetumpka

Elmore County

Population 87,694 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form submitted to Elmore County Health Department. Direct sales within Alabama only (in-person, phone, online).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Elmore County (near Montgomery) and its municipalities (Wetumpka, Prattville area, Millbrook, Elmore) may have home occupation permits. No specific Elmore County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Elmore County Commission or municipal planning offices.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No food service permit required. County health department may not regulate production beyond the review form process per §22-20-5.1(b)-(c). Investigations may occur upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form submitted to Elmore County Health Department. Direct sales within Alabama only (in-person, phone, online).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement beyond standard potable water.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement; standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No food service permit required. County health department may not regulate production beyond the review form process per §22-20-5.1(b)-(c). Investigations may occur upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Elmore County (near Montgomery) and its municipalities (Wetumpka, Prattville area, Millbrook, Elmore) may have home occupation permits. No specific Elmore County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Elmore County Commission or municipal planning offices.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within Alabama only; in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Elmore County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 governs.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Elmore County	Autauga County	Montgomery County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review f...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application req...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirements.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing
POPULATION	87,694	58,761	228,132

RESEARCH NOTES

Elmore County is in the Montgomery metro area and follows the standard Alabama cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. The review form must be submitted to the Elmore County Health Department. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed; county-specific rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagfoodlawinformation.pdf>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

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

ALABAMA: ESCAMBIA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1648* · FIPS 01053 · Brewton

Escambia County

Population 36,630 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Escambia County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Escambia County AL (not to be confused with Escambia County FL) is rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Escambia County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Escambia County AL (not to be confused with Escambia County FL) is rural in south Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Escambia County	Conecuh County	Covington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	36,755	11,576	37,542

RESEARCH NOTES

Escambia County AL is a rural county in south Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/escambia/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/escambia/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/escambia-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: ETOWAH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1758* · FIPS 01055 · Gadsden

Etowah CountyPopulation 103,348 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Gadsden and Etowah County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Etowah County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Etowah County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohibited. Acidified foods require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Etowah County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Gadsden and Etowah County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Etowah County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Etowah County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Etowah County Health Department administers local approval.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Etowah County	Marshall County	Calhoun County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.	Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (2021 amendment). No interstate shipping. No wholesale or retail store channels.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and obta...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods require pH testing.
POPULATION	103,348	97,923	116,162

RESEARCH NOTES

Etowah County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: FAYETTE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1649* · FIPS 01057 · Fayette

Fayette CountyPopulation 15,863 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Fayette County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Fayette County is rural in northwest Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Fayette County Health Department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state requirement. Fayette County is rural in northwest Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not regulated at state level for cottage food.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Fayette County	Lamar County	Marion County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	16,297	13,885	29,203

RESEARCH NOTES

Fayette County is a rural county in northwest Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/fayette/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/fayette/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/fayette-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: FRANKLIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #808* · FIPS 01059 · Russellville

Franklin County

Population 31,874 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Franklin County	Lawrence County	Marion County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	32,011	33,116	29,203

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: GENEVA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #797* · FIPS 01061 · Geneva

Geneva County

Population 27,259 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Geneva County	Covington County	Coffee County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. Acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water activity testing.
POPULATION	26,647	37,542	53,559

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: GREENE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #809* · FIPS 01063 · Eutaw

Greene County

Population 7,127 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Greene County	Hale County	Marengo County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	7,706	14,742	19,180

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: HALE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #810* · FIPS 01065 · Greensboro

Hale County

Population 15,116 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Hale County	Bibb County	Greene County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	14,742	22,251	7,706

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: HENRY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #829* · FIPS 01067 · Abbeville

Henry County

Population 18,141 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Henry County	Barbour County	Dale County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within...	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.
POPULATION	17,282	24,877	49,455

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: HOUSTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1722* · FIPS 01069 · Dothan

Houston County

Population 107,040 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No sales cap. Applications and fees vary by county health department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Dothan and Houston County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Houston County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Houston County Health Department must approve applications before selling. The county health department reviews the application, proof of training, sample label, and product list. Fees and approval process vary by county.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No sales cap. Applications and fees vary by county health department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohibited. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Houston County Health Department must approve applications before selling. The county health department reviews the application, proof of training, sample label, and product list. Fees and approval process vary by county.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Dothan and Houston County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Houston County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Houston County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Houston County Health Department administers local approval.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Houston County	Dale County	Geneva County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibi...	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-pote...	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	107,040	49,455	26,647

RESEARCH NOTES

Houston County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input. The county has no URLs provided. Houston County is the Wiregrass Region hub (Dothan). Alabama requires county health department approval before selling — Houston County Health Department administers this. Food safety course (Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course) required. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: JACKSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1978* · FIPS 01071 · Scottsboro

Jackson County

Population 52,618 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. No commercial equipment permitted. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in-state (in person, phone, online, mail).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not explicitly restricted by state law, but standard sanitation applies. Alabama state law does not have an explicit pet ban unlike NC.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Jackson County requires a home occupation application approved by the Public Development Director. Max floor area 1,000 sq ft or 25% of dwelling. No exterior signs indicating business activity. Only one additional full-time employee or two part-time employees allowed on site. An occupational tax license must also be obtained from the county.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. No commercial equipment permitted. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in-state (in person, phone, online, mail).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly restricted by state law, but standard sanitation applies. Alabama state law does not have an explicit pet ban unlike NC.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply; no special testing required by state law.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; no explicit handwashing station requirement beyond residential kitchen standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard residential kitchen storage; products must remain non-potentially hazardous (no refrigeration required).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Jackson County requires a home occupation application approved by the Public Development Director. Max floor area 1,000 sq ft or 25% of dwelling. No exterior signs indicating business activity. Only one additional full-time employee or two part-time employees allowed on site. An occupational tax license must also be obtained from the county.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Customer pickup allowed but no stock-in-trade may be displayed or stored on premises per home occupation rules. Goods transported by U.S. mail or commercial parcel service; no more than 10 deliveries/shipments per month by commercial carrier.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One additional full-time or two part-time employees (beyond occupants) per home occupation rules.

Relevant county code

Jackson County Zoning Ordinance, Article 3, Section 3-068 (Home Occupation)

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Jackson County	DeKalb County	Marshall County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not explicitly restricted by state law, but standard sanitation applies. Alabama state law does not have an explicit pet ban unlike NC.	Not specified in state law	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Customer pickup allowed but no stock-in-trade may be displayed or stored on premises per home occupation rules. Goods transported by U.S. m...	In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. No commercial equipment permitted. Must complete state-approved food safety...	No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, pou...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard residential kitchen storage; products must remain non-potentially hazardous (no refrigeration required).	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.
POPULATION	52,618	71,680	97,923

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) allows cottage food production from primary residence without kitchen inspection; county health department only reviews food safety course certificate and labels. Jackson County's zoning ordinance (Section 3-068) requires a home occupation permit application and an occupational tax license. No display or on-premises sale of stock in trade; goods must ship by USPS/parcel service. Restaurant use is expressly prohibited as a home occupation. County health department review required before obtaining business license. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline and zoning restrictions.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jacksoncountygov.com/DocumentCenter/View/2986/Home-Occupation-Rules-and-Regulations-PDF?bidId=>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

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

ALABAMA: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1761* · FIPS 01073 · Birmingham

Jefferson County

Population 672,265 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (2021 amendment, SB 160/Act 2021-461); no sales cap · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. Application and fee required through Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). Non-potentially hazardous foods only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Jefferson County Department of Health administers cottage food registration (includes proof of food safety training, sample label, product list). County fee applies. For the business zoning aspect: Jefferson County Planning and Zoning for unincorporated areas; City of Birmingham Planning, Engineering & Permits for incorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (JCDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections under state law.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. Application and fee required through Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). Non-potentially hazardous foods only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification from state-approved program required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; non-PHF only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — JCDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections under state law.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Jefferson County Department of Health administers cottage food registration (includes proof of food safety training, sample label, product list). County fee applies. For the business zoning aspect: Jefferson County Planning and Zoning for unincorporated areas; City of Birmingham Planning, Engineering & Permits for incorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-state shipping. No sales cap (2021 amendment removed prior cap).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Jefferson County Department of Health cottage food application process

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Jefferson County	Tuscaloosa County	Shelby County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-stat...	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.	Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment)...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. A...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requir...	Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing	Non-TCS, non-perishable storage required. Products must be shelf-stable.
POPULATION	672,265	231,558	223,916

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County Alabama follows state baseline. The JCDH administers cottage food applications and fees vary by county per state law. Alabama's 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed the prior sales cap, expanded the allowed foods list, and added online sales/in-state shipping. Before selling, producers must complete a state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. No Jefferson County-specific restriction beyond state baseline found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jcdh.org>

<https://www.jccal.org/planning>

<https://www.jccal.org>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: LAMAR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #828* · FIPS 01075 · Vernon

Lamar County

Population 13,543 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Lamar County	Fayette County	Marion County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	13,885	16,297	29,203

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: LAUDERDALE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1769* · FIPS 01077 · Florence

Lauderdale CountyPopulation 94,329 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain Lauderdale County Health Department approval before selling. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2021 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Lauderdale County Health Department (Florence) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Alabama ADPH / Lauderdale County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain Lauderdale County Health Department approval before selling. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2021 amendment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement at state level; county health department may review.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of state-approved food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Alabama ADPH / Lauderdale County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Lauderdale County Health Department (Florence) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated in Alabama cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Lauderdale County-specific cottage food code beyond state-required county health approval.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Lauderdale County	Limestone County	Colbert County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Yes	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Direct to consumer. In-person sales at home, farmers markets, events. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (...)
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products only. Proper labeling and storage required.
POPULATION	94,329	104,199	57,270

RESEARCH NOTES

No Lauderdale County-specific cottage food overrides found. Lauderdale County Health Department contact (Florence): (256) 760-5650. Alabama requires county health department approval – county is the primary point of contact for cottage food operators. Acidified foods require pH testing by approved authority. Florence is home to the University of North Alabama.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: LAWRENCE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #827* · FIPS 01079 · Moulton

Lawrence County

Population 33,567 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Lawrence County	Franklin County	Winston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	33,116	32,011	23,655

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: LEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1128* · FIPS 01081 · Opelika

Lee County

Population 175,126 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment. No sales cap (removed by 2021 SB 160).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Opelika (Lee County seat) requires a home occupation permit and business license for home-based businesses (Zoning Ordinance Section 8.14). Requirements: permit from Zoning Administrator before operating, no more than 25% of total floor area (max 500 sq ft), must be incidental to residential use, residents only conduct business, no outdoor storage/display, one small sign (max 2 sq ft, on door/window). Maximum one non-resident employee. County/unincorporated Lee County areas have separate zoning rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections post-approval. Health department may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment. No sales cap (removed by 2021 SB 160).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; reviewed during health department approval.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities; reviewed during health department approval.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspections post-approval. Health department may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Opelika (Lee County seat) requires a home occupation permit and business license for home-based businesses (Zoning Ordinance Section 8.14). Requirements: permit from Zoning Administrator before operating, no more than 25% of total floor area (max 500 sq ft), must be incidental to residential use, residents only conduct business, no outdoor storage/display, one small sign (max 2 sq ft, on door/window). Maximum one non-resident employee. County/unincorporated Lee County areas have separate zoning rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One non-resident employee maximum per Opelika zoning ordinance. State law focuses on cottage food production by registered operator.

Relevant county code

Opelika Zoning Ordinance §8.14 (Home Occupation); Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Lee County	Russell County	Chambers County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardo...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	175,126	58,849	34,612

RESEARCH NOTES

Opelika city zoning ordinance (Section 8.14) directly retrieved from official Opelika city website. Home occupation permit required from Zoning Administrator, max 25% floor area (up to 500 sq ft), residents-only operation with one non-resident employee exception. Baking explicitly listed as an example of permitted home occupation. Alabama cottage food law requires local county health department approval before selling. Lee County website confirmed at leeco.us. 2021 amendment removed sales cap and added online/in-state shipping.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.leeco.us>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.opelika-al.gov/DocumentCenter/View/602/Home-Occupation-PDF?bidId=>

<https://www.opelika-al.gov/1154/Home-Occupation-Home-Business-PDF>

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

ALABAMA: LIMESTONE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1755* · FIPS 01083 · Athens

Limestone County

Population 104,199 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Athens and Limestone County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Limestone County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Limestone County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohibited. Acidified foods require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Limestone County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Athens and Limestone County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Limestone County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Limestone County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Limestone County Health Department (Athens office) administers local approval.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Limestone County	Lauderdale County	Morgan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.
POPULATION	104,199	94,329	123,102

RESEARCH NOTES

Limestone County has no county URLs in the input. Note: the input lists the county_seat as 'Washington Street Courthouse Annex' which is a descriptor not a city name — the actual county seat is Athens, AL. State baseline governs. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: LOWNDES COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #826* · FIPS 01085 · Hayneville

Lowndes County

Population 9,485 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Lowndes County	Butler County	Crenshaw County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	10,153	18,981	13,205

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: MACON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #825* · FIPS 01087 · Tuskegee

Macon County

Population 18,159 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Macon County	Bullock County	Tallapoosa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	19,198	10,328	41,251

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: MADISON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2785* · FIPS 01089 · Huntsville

Madison County

Population 389,781 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local county health department (Madison County Health Department). No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales and online/in-state shipping (added 2021). No wholesale.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Madison County municipalities (Huntsville, Madison, Athens area) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Huntsville is a rapidly growing city and has active planning/zoning enforcement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Madison County Health Department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local county health department (Madison County Health Department). No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales and online/in-state shipping (added 2021). No wholesale.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement; county health dept may review.
HANDWASHING	Required per county health department food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Madison County Health Department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Madison County municipalities (Huntsville, Madison, Athens area) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Huntsville is a rapidly growing city and has active planning/zoning enforcement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail establishment sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state cottage food); Madison County Health Department approval process.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Madison County	Morgan County	Limestone County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	No	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail establishment sales.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local coun...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	389,781	123,102	104,199

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) confirmed from state baseline. Madison County (Huntsville) is a tech/research hub with significant growth. County health department approval required. Food safety course required first. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Madison County-specific fee/requirement details not directly verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.madisoncountyal.gov>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: MARENGO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #824* · FIPS 01091 · Linden

Marengo County

Population 18,512 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Marengo County	Choctaw County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	19,180	12,669	23,058

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: MARION COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #823* · FIPS 01093 · Hamilton

Marion County

Population 29,323 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Marion County	Fayette County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	29,203	16,297	32,011

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: MARSHALL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1764* · FIPS 01095 · Guntersville

Marshall County

Population 97,923 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Apply to local county health department (Marshall County Health Department). Applications/fees vary by county; typically require proof of training, sample label, and product list. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Marshall County Health Department (Guntersville) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list. Fees vary.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Alabama ADPH / Marshall County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Apply to local county health department (Marshall County Health Department). Applications/fees vary by county; typically require proof of training, sample label, and product list. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water supply requirement at state level; county health department may review.

HANDWASHING

Required as part of state-approved food safety course completion.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Alabama ADPH / Marshall County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Marshall County Health Department (Guntersville) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list. Fees vary.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated in Alabama cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Marshall County-specific cottage food code identified beyond state-required county health approval.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Marshall County	Etowah County	Cullman County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Yes	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved f...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.
POPULATION	97,923	103,348	88,284

RESEARCH NOTES

No Marshall County-specific cottage food overrides found. Alabama requires county health department approval as a precondition to sales — this is notable as a local county-level gate. Marshall County Health Dept contact: (256) 571-7764. The ADPH cottage food URL returned 404 during research; Forrager and the Alabama Legislature website were used as backup sources. Acidified foods require pH testing by approved authority before sale.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

ALABAMA: MOBILE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2782* · FIPS 01097 · Mobile

Mobile County

Population 413,878 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course); (2) approval from local county health department. No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales only; no wholesale/indirect sales.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Mobile County municipalities (Mobile city, Prichard, Saraland, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Alabama cottage food law approval goes through county health department, not county planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (County health department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection by Mobile County Health Department.)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Conditional — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course); (2) approval from local county health department. No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales only; no wholesale/indirect sales.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement; county health dept may review.

HANDWASHING

Required per county health department food safety standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — County health department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection by Mobile County Health Department.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Mobile County municipalities (Mobile city, Prichard, Saraland, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Alabama cottage food law approval goes through county health department, not county planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state cottage food); Mobile County Health Department approval process.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Mobile County	Baldwin County	Washington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishm...	Direct sales only to consumers; online sales and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale to retail establishments.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or AC...	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department ap...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	413,878	233,420	15,434

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) confirmed from state baseline. 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed sales cap, expanded foods, added online sales. Food safety course required (county health dept reviews proof). Mobile County Health Department administers county-level approval. Alabama is notable for requiring county health dept approval – application and fees vary by county. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Mobile County-specific fees/requirements not directly verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mobilecountyal.gov>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/mobile-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: MONROE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #822* · FIPS 01099 · Monroeville

Monroe County

Population 19,057 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Monroe County	Butler County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	19,816	18,981	23,058

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1824* · FIPS 01101 · Montgomery

Montgomery County

Population 228,132 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap (removed 2021 amendment). Online and in-state shipping allowed. Direct sales only. Note: county seat field in input was blank — county seat is Montgomery.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Montgomery County and City of Montgomery may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Montgomery County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial Montgomery County Health Department approval required)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap (removed 2021 amendment). Online and in-state shipping allowed. Direct sales only. Note: county seat field in input was blank — county seat is Montgomery.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well testing per county health dept
HANDWASHING	State-approved food safety course required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial Montgomery County Health Department approval required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Montgomery County and City of Montgomery may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Montgomery County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Montgomery County Health Department registration

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Montgomery County	Elmore County	Autauga County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application req...	Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review f...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing	No specific statutory requirements.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	228,132	87,694	58,761

RESEARCH NOTES

Montgomery County AL follows Alabama state baseline. Alabama state capital county. No sales cap since 2021. No specific Montgomery County Health Department cottage food page found. Note: input data had blank county_seat field — county seat is Montgomery. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mc-ala.org>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/montgomery-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: MORGAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #779* · FIPS 01103 · Decatur

Morgan County

Population 123,102 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (as amended 2021); no sales cap; food handler cert required; no inspection; registration required; direct sales only (online/in-state shipping allowed) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. Morgan County Environmental Health likely administers local approvals.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama county health departments approve cottage food applications and may impose local requirements. Morgan County Environmental Health (part of Alabama Department of Public Health district) administers approval process. Producers must submit proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. No specific home occupation permit information found for Morgan County beyond state health department approval process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications. Complaint-driven investigation possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. Morgan County Environmental Health likely administers local approvals.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification (state-approved course such as Learn2Serve or ACES) required before selling.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications. Complaint-driven investigation possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alabama county health departments approve cottage food applications and may impose local requirements. Morgan County Environmental Health (part of Alabama Department of Public Health district) administers approval process. Producers must submit proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. No specific home occupation permit information found for Morgan County beyond state health department approval process.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail store channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Morgan County	Limestone County	Marshall County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Yes	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ...	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.
POPULATION	123,102	104,199	97,923

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (AL tier Good). Alabama requires food handler certification and county health department approval. Morgan County includes Decatur (city pop ~55K). No specific county-level URLs provided in input. Alabama’s county health departments vary in fee structure and processing; contact Morgan County Environmental Health for current specifics. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/morgan-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: PERRY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #820* · FIPS 01105 · Marion

Perry County

Population 7,719 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Perry County	Bibb County	Chilton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	8,479	22,251	45,140

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: PICKENS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #819* · FIPS 01107 · Carrollton

Pickens County

Population 18,508 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Pickens County	Fayette County	Greene County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	18,925	16,297	7,706

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: PIKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #818* · FIPS 01109 · Troy

Pike County

Population 33,124 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Pike County	Barbour County	Bullock County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	32,997	24,877	10,328

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: RANDOLPH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #817* · FIPS 01111 · Wedowee

Randolph County

Population 23,067 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Randolph County	Chambers County	Clay County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	22,179	34,612	14,209

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: RUSSELL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1948* · FIPS 01113 · Phenix City

Russell County

Population 58,849 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online and in-state shipping allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Russell County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; county health department approves initial application.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online and in-state shipping allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; county health department approves initial application.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Russell County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Russell County Health Department procedures (county health department approval required); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Russell County	Lee County	Barbour County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardo...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.
POPULATION	58,849	175,126	24,877

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama requires county health department approval – Russell County Health Dept. should be contacted directly. Phenix City is on the Georgia border near Columbus, GA. Acidified foods require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/russell-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: SHELBY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1254* · FIPS 01117 · Columbiana

Shelby County

Population 223,916 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. No sales cap. Direct sales only (no wholesale). Application and approval required through local county health department. Shelby County Health Department reviews applications, requires proof of training, sample label, and product list.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors may require exclusion of pets from kitchen during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Shelby County zoning governs home-based businesses for unincorporated areas. Individual municipalities (Hoover, Pelham, Helena, Alabaster, etc.) within Shelby County may require separate home occupation permits. Contact Shelby County Planning & Zoning or the relevant municipal zoning office. Shelby County is a large suburban county in the Birmingham metro area.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (County health department reviews application and may inspect before approving cottage food operations. Alabama does not require routine inspections post-approval, but county health has authority to investigate complaints.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. No sales cap. Direct sales only (no wholesale). Application and approval required through local county health department. Shelby County Health Department reviews applications, requires proof of training, sample label, and product list.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors may require exclusion of pets from kitchen during production.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement documented for Alabama cottage food operations at state level; county health may have additional requirements.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per state food safety training course requirements.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-perishable storage required. Products must be shelf-stable.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — County health department reviews application and may inspect before approving cottage food operations. Alabama does not require routine inspections post-approval, but county health has authority to investigate complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Shelby County zoning governs home-based businesses for unincorporated areas. Individual municipalities (Hoover, Pelham, Helena, Alabaster, etc.) within Shelby County may require separate home occupation permits. Contact Shelby County Planning & Zoning or the relevant municipal zoning office. Shelby County is a large suburban county in the Birmingham metro area.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail store sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Alabama cottage food statute; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Shelby County zoning ordinance (contact Planning & Zoning)

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Shelby County	Jefferson County	St. Clair County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors...	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment)...	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-stat...	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved ...	State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. A...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-perishable storage required. Products must be shelf-stable.	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	223,916	672,265	91,719

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state baseline applies. Shelby County is a major suburb of Birmingham with high population and many municipalities. County health department approval required before selling, with proof of food safety training. The 2021 amendment (SB 160 / Act 2021-461) expanded the law significantly — removed sales cap, added online sales and shipping. Shelby County Health Department not listed in input URLs. No county-specific override found beyond state-required county health approval process. Applications and fees vary by county; Shelby County health department contact should be verified directly.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.shelbyal.com>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.shelbyal.com>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/shelby-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: ST. CLAIR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1770* · FIPS 01115 · —

St. Clair CountyPopulation 91,719 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain St. Clair County Health Department approval before selling. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2021 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. St. Clair County Health Department issues approval. The county seat field is blank in input data (St. Clair County has dual county seats: Ashville and Pell City). Operators should contact St. Clair County Health Department for application process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Alabama ADPH / St. Clair County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain St. Clair County Health Department approval before selling. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2021 amendment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement at state level.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of state-approved food safety course.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Alabama ADPH / St. Clair County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. St. Clair County Health Department issues approval. The county seat field is blank in input data (St. Clair County has dual county seats: Ashville and Pell City). Operators should contact St. Clair County Health Department for application process.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit.

Relevant county code

No St. Clair County-specific cottage food code beyond state-required county health approval.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	St. Clair County	Talladega County	Etowah County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Same as all Alabama counties: home kitchen production, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form s...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	No specific statutory requirement.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	91,719	81,105	103,348

RESEARCH NOTES

No St. Clair County-specific cottage food overrides found. St. Clair County has dual county seats (Ashville and Pell City) — the county seat field is blank in the input. St. Clair County is a growing suburb of Birmingham. Alabama requires county health department approval as a gating precondition.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/st-clair-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: SUMTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #816* · FIPS 01119 · Livingston

Sumter County

Population 11,607 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Sumter County	Choctaw County	Greene County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	12,196	12,669	7,706

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: TALLADEGA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1609* · FIPS 01121 · Talladega

Talladega CountyPopulation 81,105 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Same as all Alabama counties: home kitchen production, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form submitted to Talladega County Health Department. Direct sales within Alabama only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Talladega County and the City of Talladega (known for Talladega Superspeedway NASCAR track) may have home occupation ordinances. No specific Talladega County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No food service permit required. County health department may not regulate production beyond review form per §22-20-5.1.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Same as all Alabama counties: home kitchen production, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form submitted to Talladega County Health Department. Direct sales within Alabama only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No food service permit required. County health department may not regulate production beyond review form per §22-20-5.1.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Talladega County and the City of Talladega (known for Talladega Superspeedway NASCAR track) may have home occupation ordinances. No specific Talladega County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Talladega County-specific cottage food code identified. Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 governs.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Talladega County	St. Clair County	Calhoun County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (2021 amendment). No interstate shipping. No wholesale or retail store channels.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all Alabama counties: home kitchen production, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form s...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and obta...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods require pH testing.
POPULATION	81,105	91,719	116,162

RESEARCH NOTES

Talladega County follows Alabama cottage food law. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagfoodlawinformation.pdf>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

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

ALABAMA: TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #815* · FIPS 01123 · Dadeville

Tallapoosa CountyPopulation 40,699 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Tallapoosa County	Chambers County	Clay County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	41,251	34,612	14,209

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1821* · FIPS 01125 · Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa County

Population 231,558 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap. Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021). Direct sales only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Tuscaloosa County and City of Tuscaloosa may require home occupation permits. County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval required; application review process)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap. Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021). Direct sales only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well testing per county health dept requirements
HANDWASHING	State-approved food safety course required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval required; application review process
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Tuscaloosa County and City of Tuscaloosa may require home occupation permits. County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Tuscaloosa County Health Department registration

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Tuscaloosa County	Jefferson County	Walker County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-stat...	Direct sales only; online sales and in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No interstate shipping.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requir...	State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. A...	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) before selling. Application to local county health d...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required
POPULATION	231,558	672,265	64,978

RESEARCH NOTES

Tuscaloosa County AL follows Alabama state baseline. Home of University of Alabama. No sales cap since 2021 amendment. No specific Tuscaloosa County Health Department cottage food page found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tuscco.com>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/tuscaloosa-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: WALKER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1586* · FIPS 01127 · Jasper

Walker County

Population 64,978 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) before selling. Application to local county health department required with proof of training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. Direct sales only; online/in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Walker County Health Department administers cottage food approvals. Application with proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list required. Contact Walker County Health Department at (205) 387-2547.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; Walker County Health Department may investigate complaints)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) before selling. Application to local county health department required with proof of training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. Direct sales only; online/in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per food safety course training
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; Walker County Health Department may investigate complaints
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Walker County Health Department administers cottage food approvals. Application with proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list required. Contact Walker County Health Department at (205) 387-2547.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only; online sales and in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No interstate shipping.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Walker County Health Department application process

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES			
Regulation	Walker County	Blount County	Cullman County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only; online sales and in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No interstate shipping.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale to retail stores or re...	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) before selling. Application to local county health d...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved f...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.
POPULATION	64,978	59,077	88,284

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama requires food safety course completion and county health department application. Walker County is a rural western Alabama coal country county near Birmingham. No specific Walker County overrides beyond standard AL framework found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/walker-county-discuss>

ALABAMA: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #813* · FIPS 01129 · Chatom

Washington County

Population 15,018 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Washington County	Choctaw County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	15,434	12,669	23,058

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: WILCOX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #812* · FIPS 01131 · Camden

Wilcox County

Population 9,865 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Wilcox County	Butler County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	10,441	18,981	23,058

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

ALABAMA: WINSTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #811* · FIPS 01133 · Double Springs

Winston County

Population 23,869 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Winston County	Franklin County	Lawrence County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	23,655	32,011	33,116

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, \$25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

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

Crosodo Index methodology: The Crosodo Index is our internal 1–N ranking of U.S. counties by how friendly the combined state + county rules are for home-based cottage food bakers. Score components (higher = better): home kitchen allowed (30/15/5), no dedicated kitchen required (25), pets allowed (15), no home occupation permit (15), on-site pickup allowed (10), no inspection (10), no local business license (5), high data confidence (5), plus state tier bonus (Freedom +20, Great +15, Good +10, Okay +5). Data drawn from county zoning codes, health department rules, and state cottage food statutes (primarily the county_cottage_food_zoning research set and state statutes CSV, last verified ~2026). Ranks are global across ~3,000 counties. Counties with sparse or missing data receive lower/default scores. This is a research and prioritization tool only — always verify current rules directly with your state department of agriculture/health and your county planning & health offices. The original U.S. Census population rank is retained in source data for reference but is no longer used for primary display or sorting in Crosodo materials.

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Alabama cottage food rules, county zoning overlays, and what other home bakers are seeing in your area.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama-discuss>