

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Autauga County

Alabama · Prattville · FIPS 01001 · Population 58,761 ·
Crosodo Index #1969*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	Good	—	MEDIUM	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.

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>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Autauga County's rules sit on top of Alabama's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

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

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

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

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Autauga County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/autauga-county-discuss>
