

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Baldwin County

Alabama · Bay Minette · FIPS 01003 · Population 233,420 ·
Crosodo Index #1828*

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: 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

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>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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