

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Cherokee County

Alabama · Centre · FIPS 01019 · Population 26,138 · Crosodo Index #1637\*

## STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law)

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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: 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**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state statute.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Not specified in state statute.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Not specifically regulated.

**Inspection & permitting**

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

**Customer-facing rules**

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Yes
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	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/chokeee/>

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

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

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

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Cherokee 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.

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

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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