

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Clay County

Alabama · Ashland · FIPS 01027 · Population 14,239 ·
Crosodo Index #1641*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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: CLAY COUNTY

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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

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>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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