

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Coffee County

Alabama · Elba · FIPS 01031 · Population 53,559 · Crosodo Index #2281*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (amended 2021, Act 2021-461)

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: 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

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>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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