

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Cullman County

Alabama · Cullman · FIPS 01043 · Population 88,284 ·  
Crosodo Index #1602\*

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: CULLMAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1602\* · FIPS 01043 · Cullman

## Cullman County

Population 88,284 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved food safety course. Must submit a cottage food review form to the local county health department (Cullman County Health Department). Direct sales to consumers only (in-person, phone, online within Alabama). No county or state health department permit required beyond the review form submission.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No state-level home occupation permit requirement for cottage food. Cullman County and the City of Cullman may have home occupation ordinances. Producers should check with Cullman County Planning/Zoning or City of Cullman Planning Department for any home-based business requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Alabama statute §22-20-5.1(b) states that a cottage food operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit. Neither the state nor county health department may regulate cottage food production except as provided in §22-20-5.1. Inspections may occur in response to illness complaints.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved food safety course. Must submit a cottage food review form to the local county health department (Cullman County Health Department). Direct sales to consumers only (in-person, phone, online within Alabama). No county or state health department permit required beyond the review form submission.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific statutory requirement; standard potable water.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific statutory handwashing infrastructure requirement; safe food handling expected.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Alabama statute §22-20-5.1(b) states that a cottage food operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit. Neither the state nor county health department may regulate cottage food production except as provided in §22-20-5.1. Inspections may occur in response to illness complaints.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No state-level home occupation permit requirement for cottage food. Cullman County and the City of Cullman may have home occupation ordinances. Producers should check with Cullman County Planning/Zoning or City of Cullman Planning Department for any home-based business requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified in state law.

### Relevant county code

No Cullman County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State law Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 governs. Cottage food review form submitted to Cullman County Health Department.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law requires: (1) approved food safety course; (2) cottage food review form submitted to local county health department; (3) proper labeling per §22-20-5.1(e). The county health department role is to receive the review form, not to issue a permit. State statute confirms no food service permit is required. Cullman County Health Department administers the review form process. No specific Cullman County overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official ADPH PDF and Justia; county-specific rules not verified from county .gov source.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagfoodlawinformation.pdf>  
<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

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

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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

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