

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Dale County

Alabama · Ozark · FIPS 01045 · Population 49,455 · Crosodo Index #806\*

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: DALE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #806\* · FIPS 01045 · Ozark

# Dale County

Population 49,455 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in Alabama (in person, phone, online, mail). Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No meat, poultry, or fish.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Dale County health department review required (of food safety course certificate and product labels) before obtaining business license. Local county home occupation permit requirements not found in research; recommend verifying with Dale County and City of Ozark.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. No kitchen inspection. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in Alabama (in person, phone, online, mail). Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No meat, poultry, or fish.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Standard residential water supply; no special testing required.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard sanitation practices; no explicit handwashing station requirement.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. No kitchen inspection. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Dale County health department review required (of food safety course certificate and product labels) before obtaining business license. Local county home occupation permit requirements not found in research; recommend verifying with Dale County and City of Ozark.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

### Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Dale County zoning/home occupation ordinances

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) allows cottage food production without kitchen inspection. Dale County includes Fort Rucker (now Fort Novosel, a U.S. Army installation). No Dale County-specific cottage food ordinances found beyond state baseline.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dale County	Coffee County	Houston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.	No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...	Direct to consumer. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibi...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. Acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water activity testing.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	49,455	53,559	107,040

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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

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