

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dallas County

Alabama · Selma · FIPS 01047 · Population 35,545 · Crosodo Index #1647*

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: DALLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1647* · FIPS 01047 · Selma

Dallas County

Population 35,545 · 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 Dallas County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Dallas County seat is Selma; county is rural/small city. No county-level home occupation ordinance found specific to cottage food.)

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 Dallas 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. Dallas County seat is Selma; county is rural/small city. No county-level home occupation ordinance found specific to cottage food.
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

Dallas County is a central Alabama county (seat: Selma, known for civil rights history). State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dallas County	Chilton County	Lowndes 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.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
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-...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	38,326	45,140	10,153

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Dallas 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

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

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