

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# DeKalb County

Alabama · Fort Payne · FIPS 01049 · Population 71,680 ·  
Crosodo Index #1596\*

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: DEKALB COUNTY

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# DeKalb County

Population 71,680 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state law

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No county govt URL provided. DeKalb County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. City of Fort Payne has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state law
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Standard residential water supply
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required as part of food handler course
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — No county govt URL provided. DeKalb County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. City of Fort Payne has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.
<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>	In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

### RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama Good-tier state. No county-specific sources available. State law allows online/in-state shipping since 2021 amendment. Food handler cert required. Pattern-verified county with no county-specific overrides found.

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### 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/dekalb-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	DeKalb County	Marshall County	Etowah County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, pou...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	71,680	97,923	103,348

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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

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