

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Elmore County

Alabama · Wetumpka · FIPS 01051 · Population 87,694 ·
Crosodo Index #1603*

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: ELMORE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1603* · FIPS 01051 · Wetumpka

Elmore County

Population 87,694 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form submitted to Elmore County Health Department. Direct sales within Alabama only (in-person, phone, online).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Elmore County (near Montgomery) and its municipalities (Wetumpka, Prattville area, Millbrook, Elmore) may have home occupation permits. No specific Elmore County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Elmore County Commission or municipal planning offices.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No food service permit required. County health department may not regulate production beyond the review form process per §22-20-5.1(b)-(c). Investigations may occur upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form submitted to Elmore County Health Department. Direct sales within Alabama only (in-person, phone, online).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement beyond standard potable water.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement; standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No food service permit required. County health department may not regulate production beyond the review form process per §22-20-5.1(b)-(c). Investigations may occur upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Elmore County (near Montgomery) and its municipalities (Wetumpka, Prattville area, Millbrook, Elmore) may have home occupation permits. No specific Elmore County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Elmore County Commission or municipal planning offices.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Elmore County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 governs.

QUICK COMPARISON – BORDERING COUNTIES

Regulation	Elmore County	Autauga County	Montgomery County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review f...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application req...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirements.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing
POPULATION	87,694	58,761	228,132

RESEARCH NOTES

Elmore County is in the Montgomery metro area and follows the standard Alabama cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. The review form must be submitted to the Elmore County Health Department. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed; county-specific rules not verified.

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/elmore-county-discuss>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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