

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jackson County

Alabama · Scottsboro · FIPS 01071 · Population 52,618 ·
Crosodo Index #1978*

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: JACKSON COUNTY

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Jackson County

Population 52,618 · 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. No commercial equipment permitted. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in-state (in person, phone, online, mail).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not explicitly restricted by state law, but standard sanitation applies. Alabama state law does not have an explicit pet ban unlike NC.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Jackson County requires a home occupation application approved by the Public Development Director. Max floor area 1,000 sq ft or 25% of dwelling. No exterior signs indicating business activity. Only one additional full-time employee or two part-time employees allowed on site. An occupational tax license must also be obtained from the county.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. No commercial equipment permitted. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in-state (in person, phone, online, mail).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly restricted by state law, but standard sanitation applies. Alabama state law does not have an explicit pet ban unlike NC.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply; no special testing required by state law.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; no explicit handwashing station requirement beyond residential kitchen standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard residential kitchen storage; products must remain non-potentially hazardous (no refrigeration required).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Jackson County requires a home occupation application approved by the Public Development Director. Max floor area 1,000 sq ft or 25% of dwelling. No exterior signs indicating business activity. Only one additional full-time employee or two part-time employees allowed on site. An occupational tax license must also be obtained from the county.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Customer pickup allowed but no stock-in-trade may be displayed or stored on premises per home occupation rules. Goods transported by U.S. mail or commercial parcel service; no more than 10 deliveries/shipments per month by commercial carrier.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One additional full-time or two part-time employees (beyond occupants) per home occupation rules.

Relevant county code

Jackson County Zoning Ordinance, Article 3, Section 3-068 (Home Occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) allows cottage food production from primary residence without kitchen inspection; county health department only reviews food safety course certificate and labels. Jackson County's zoning ordinance (Section 3-068) requires a home occupation permit application and an occupational tax license. No display or on-premises sale of stock in trade; goods must ship by USPS/parcel service. Restaurant use is expressly prohibited as a home occupation. County health department review required before obtaining business license. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline and zoning restrictions.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jacksoncountygov.com/DocumentCenter/View/2986/Home-Occupation-Rules-and-Regulations-PDF?bidId=>

<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/jackson-county-discuss>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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