

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lauderdale County

Alabama · Florence · FIPS 01077 · Population 94,329 ·
Crosodo Index #1769*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Lauderdale County, Alabama — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Alabama cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Alabama home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Alabama label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ALABAMA: LAUDERDALE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1769* · FIPS 01077 · Florence

Lauderdale County

Population 94,329 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain Lauderdale County Health Department approval before selling. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2021 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Lauderdale County Health Department (Florence) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Alabama ADPH / Lauderdale County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and obtain Lauderdale County Health Department approval before selling. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Online/in-state shipping allowed per 2021 amendment.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water supply requirement at state level; county health department may review.

HANDWASHING

Required as part of state-approved food safety course.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Alabama ADPH / Lauderdale County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Lauderdale County Health Department (Florence) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated in Alabama cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Lauderdale County-specific cottage food code beyond state-required county health approval.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Lauderdale County-specific cottage food overrides found. Lauderdale County Health Department contact (Florence): (256) 760-5650. Alabama requires county health department approval — county is the primary point of contact for cottage food operators. Acidified foods require pH testing by approved authority. Florence is home to the University of North Alabama.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lauderdalecounty.gov>

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

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lauderdale-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lauderdale County	Limestone County	Colbert County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Yes	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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.	Direct to consumer. In-person sales at home, farmers markets, events. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote...	Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (...)
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products only. Proper labeling and storage required.
POPULATION	94,329	104,199	57,270

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Lauderdale 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/alabama.

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 about Lauderdale County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lauderdale-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Lauderdale County, Alabama. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lauderdale-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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