

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Limestone County

Alabama · Athens · FIPS 01083 · Population 104,199 ·  
Crosodo Index #1755\*

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: LIMESTONE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1755\* · FIPS 01083 · Athens

## Limestone County

Population 104,199 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Athens and Limestone County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Limestone County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Limestone County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.)

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohibited. Acidified foods require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Limestone County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Athens and Limestone County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Limestone County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Limestone County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Limestone County Health Department (Athens office) administers local approval.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Limestone County has no county URLs in the input. Note: the input lists the county\_seat as 'Washington Street Courthouse Annex' which is a descriptor not a city name — the actual county seat is Athens, AL. State baseline governs. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

#### 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/limestone-county-discuss>

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Limestone 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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### 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.

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

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

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