

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Morgan County

Alabama · Decatur · FIPS 01103 · Population 123,102 ·
Crosodo Index #779*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (as amended 2021); no sales cap; food handler cert required; no inspection; registration required; direct sales only (online/in-state shipping allowed)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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: MORGAN COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. Morgan County Environmental Health likely administers local approvals.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama county health departments approve cottage food applications and may impose local requirements. Morgan County Environmental Health (part of Alabama Department of Public Health district) administers approval process. Producers must submit proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. No specific home occupation permit information found for Morgan County beyond state health department approval process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications. Complaint-driven investigation possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. Morgan County Environmental Health likely administers local approvals.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification (state-approved course such as Learn2Serve or ACES) required before selling.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications. Complaint-driven investigation possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alabama county health departments approve cottage food applications and may impose local requirements. Morgan County Environmental Health (part of Alabama Department of Public Health district) administers approval process. Producers must submit proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. No specific home occupation permit information found for Morgan County beyond state health department approval process.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail store channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (AL tier Good). Alabama requires food handler certification and county health department approval. Morgan County includes Decatur (city pop ~55K). No specific county-level URLs provided in input. Alabama's county health departments vary in fee structure and processing; contact Morgan County Environmental Health for current specifics. 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/morgan-county-discuss>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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