

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Russell County

Alabama · Phenix City · FIPS 01113 · Population 58,849 ·
Crosodo Index #1948*

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: RUSSELL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1948* · FIPS 01113 · Phenix City

Russell County

Population 58,849 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online and in-state shipping allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Russell County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; county health department approves initial application.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department. No sales cap. Direct sales only. Online and in-state shipping allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; county health department approves initial application.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Russell County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Russell County Health Department procedures (county health department approval required); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama requires county health department approval — Russell County Health Dept. should be contacted directly. Phenix City is on the Georgia border near Columbus, GA. Acidified foods require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/russell-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Russell County	Lee County	Barbour County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.	Not specified in state statute; good practice recommended.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.	Direct to consumer only; in-person, phone, or online within Alabama. Delivery by producer or agent to consumers within state allowed.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only (in-person, phone, or online within...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Not specifically regulated; non-PHF foods must maintain quality but no formal storage rules.
POPULATION	58,849	175,126	24,877

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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