

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# St. Clair County

Alabama · — · FIPS 01115 · Population 91,719 · Crosodo Index #1770\*

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: ST. CLAIR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1770\* · FIPS 01115 · —

# St. Clair County

Population 91,719 · 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 St. Clair 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. St. Clair County Health Department issues approval. The county seat field is blank in input data (St. Clair County has dual county seats: Ashville and Pell City). Operators should contact St. Clair County Health Department for application process.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

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

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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 St. Clair 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.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific water supply requirement at state level.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required as part of state-approved food safety course.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Alabama ADPH / St. Clair County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. St. Clair County Health Department issues approval. The county seat field is blank in input data (St. Clair County has dual county seats: Ashville and Pell City). Operators should contact St. Clair County Health Department for application process.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	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. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit.

**Relevant county code**

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

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No St. Clair County-specific cottage food overrides found. St. Clair County has dual county seats (Ashville and Pell City) — the county seat field is blank in the input. St. Clair County is a growing suburb of Birmingham. Alabama requires county health department approval as a gating precondition.

**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/st-clair-county-discuss>

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

St. Clair 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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<b>STATUTE</b> Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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 St. Clair County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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