

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Appling County

Georgia · Baxley · FIPS 13001 · Population 18,669 · Crosodo Index #2201*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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.

GEORGIA: APPLING COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2201* · FIPS 13001 · Baxley

Appling County

Population 18,669 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be produced in operator’s primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted. Production limited to the home kitchen area of the primary residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Georgia state law (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Appling County and the City of Baxley to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. GDA registration form previously required operators to confirm local compliance; under HB 398 (no state license required) local zoning still applies.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon receipt of a consumer complaint, foodborne illness outbreak, or public health emergency.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Must be produced in operator’s primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted. Production limited to the home kitchen area of the primary residence.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

HANDWASHING

Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

FOOD STORAGE

Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence; no commercial storage facilities

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon receipt of a consumer complaint, foodborne illness outbreak, or public health emergency.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Georgia state law (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Appling County and the City of Baxley to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. GDA registration form previously required operators to confirm local compliance; under HB 398 (no state license required) local zoning still applies.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. No wholesale distribution through intermediaries. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) removed state licensing requirement, expanded allowed foods to almost any non-potentially hazardous food, allowed retail/restaurant/online/interstate sales, and made inspections complaint-based only. Appling County is a small rural south Georgia county; no county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Operators must still verify local zoning in Appling County and Baxley for home occupation compliance. ANSI-accredited food safety training (Food Handler level acceptable) is still required under state law. Defaulted to GA state baseline with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://dph.georgia.gov/appling-county>
- <https://www.applingcounty.org>
- <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>
- <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

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

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Appling County’s rules sit on top of Georgia’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

<p>STATUTE O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP —</p>
<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p>	<p>FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)</p>
<p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p>	<p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
<p>INDIRECT SALES Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.</p>	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Georgia cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/georgia/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Appling County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/appling-county-discuss>
