

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Baldwin County

Georgia · Milledgeville · FIPS 13009 · Population 43,644 ·  
Crosodo Index #2258\*

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: BALDWIN COUNTY

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# Baldwin County

Population 43,644 · 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.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Baldwin County and the City of Milledgeville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district. Milledgeville as a college town (Georgia College & State University) may have specific home occupation provisions in its land use code.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.)

### Home kitchen rules

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>       | 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. |
| <b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b> | No   |
| <b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>           | Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated  |
| <b>WATER SUPPLY</b>               | Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well   |
| <b>HANDWASHING</b>                | Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required  |
| <b>FOOD STORAGE</b>               | Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence   |

### Inspection & permitting

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>    | Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.  |
| <b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b> | Conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Baldwin County and the City of Milledgeville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district. Milledgeville as a college town (Georgia College & State University) may have specific home occupation provisions in its land use code. |
| <b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b> | 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. 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

Baldwin County seat is Milledgeville, home to Georgia College & State University. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found in available sources. Local zoning verification is especially important in Milledgeville given the urban/college-town context. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/baldwin-county>

<https://www.baldwincountyga.com>

<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/baldwin-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Baldwin 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.

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|---|---|
| <p><b>STATUTE</b><br/>O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&amp;R 40-7-19</p>  | <p><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b><br/>—</p>                      |
| <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b><br/>No</p>  | <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b><br/>Yes (specific course)</p> |
| <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b><br/>Upon-complaint</p>   | <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b><br/>No</p>                    |
| <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b><br/>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> |   |

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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