

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bartow County

Georgia · Cartersville · FIPS 13015 · Population 109,410 ·
Crosodo Index #2268*

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

2026-05-05

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.

GEORGIA: BARTOW COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2268* · FIPS 13015 · Cartersville

Bartow County

Population 109,410 · 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 (Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply. If using private water source, annual coliform water testing required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Bartow County and the City of Cartersville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Georgia state law (HB 398, 2025) eliminated the GDA licensing requirement for cottage food, but local zoning and home occupation rules may still apply. No Bartow County-specific cottage food ordinance was identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. No routine inspections required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply. If using private water source, annual coliform water testing required.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food handler certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, non-TCS foods only. Perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. No routine inspections required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Bartow County and the City of Cartersville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Georgia state law (HB 398, 2025) eliminated the GDA licensing requirement for cottage food, but local zoning and home occupation rules may still apply. No Bartow County-specific cottage food ordinance was identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Interstate and in-state sales permitted. Wholesale, retail, online, and direct-to-consumer sales all allowed under the 2025 law. Restaurant sales also permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Bartow County code section identified. State law governs: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Bartow County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Major 2025 update: Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food — no license, no fee, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant permitted. The input tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Current law is among the best in the country. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Bartow 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.

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

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

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