

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Carroll County

Georgia · Carrollton · FIPS 13045 · Population 120,060 ·  
Crosodo Index #2661\*

## STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required;  
complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	—	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.

GEORGIA: CARROLL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2661\* · FIPS 13045 · Carrollton

# Carroll County

Population 120,060 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. No GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only). Interstate sales now allowed. Broad food list including baked goods, candies, condiments, preserves, carbonated drinks, etc. Carroll County follows state baseline.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No specific Carroll County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Georgia HB 398 eliminated the prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning home occupation permits may still apply. Contact Carroll County Planning or Carrollton city planning for local zoning specifics.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025). No routine inspections.)

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. No GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only). Interstate sales now allowed. Broad food list including baked goods, candies, condiments, preserves, carbonated drinks, etc. Carroll County follows state baseline.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** No

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.

**WATER SUPPLY** Annual coliform testing required if using private well water. Public water: standard requirements.

**HANDWASHING** Food handler certification recommended; state baseline does not mandate specific course for non-license pathway under HB 398.

**FOOD STORAGE** Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025). No routine inspections.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** Varies — No specific Carroll County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Georgia HB 398 eliminated the prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning home occupation permits may still apply. Contact Carroll County Planning or Carrollton city planning for local zoning specifics.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. Broad channel allowances. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. The state\_tier in input ('Okay') and state\_baseline\_citation reflect pre-July 2025 law. Post-HB 398, Georgia is one of the best states for cottage food. Carroll County includes Carrollton (pop ~30K) and is west of Atlanta metro. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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

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

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