

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cherokee County

Georgia · Canton · FIPS 13057 · Population 268,567 ·
Crosodo Index #2273*

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: CHEROKEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2273* · FIPS 13057 · Canton

Cherokee County

Population 268,567 · 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 (As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certification (specific course) still required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Cherokee County may require home occupation permit under local zoning.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Cherokee County zoning (Canton area) may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Producers should check with Cherokee County Community Development Department. State law (HB 398) does not preempt local zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025); no routine inspections)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certification (specific course) still required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Cherokee County may require home occupation permit under local zoning.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source requires annual coliform testing (state rule)
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required; adequate handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 expansion broadened allowed foods significantly

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025); no routine inspections
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Cherokee County zoning (Canton area) may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Producers should check with Cherokee County Community Development Department. State law (HB 398) does not preempt local zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed (unusual for GA). Pre-July 2025: more restricted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Cherokee County Community Development zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398, effective July 1, 2025, dramatically expanded cottage food law (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) — no license required, complaint-based inspection only, much broader allowed foods, interstate sales now permitted. Cherokee County follows this state baseline with no county-specific overrides found. No direct Cherokee County .gov cottage food source retrieved. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cherokeega.com>

<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/charlotte-county-discuss>

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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