

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Dawson County

Georgia · Dawsonville · FIPS 13085 · Population 33,748 ·  
Crosodo Index #2287\*

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: DAWSON COUNTY

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# Dawson County

Population 33,748 · 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 Dawson County and the City of Dawsonville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. Dawson County has experienced significant residential growth as a bedroom community of Atlanta.)

**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 Dawson County and the City of Dawsonville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. Dawson County has experienced significant residential growth as a bedroom community of Atlanta.
<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

Dawson County is a fast-growing north Georgia county in the Blue Ridge foothills, known as a NASCAR heritage site and growing Atlanta exurb. Its growth means more formalized zoning rules for home occupations. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found in available sources. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.dawsoncounty.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/dawson-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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

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