

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dougherty County

Georgia · Albany · FIPS 13095 · Population 85,038 · Crosodo
Index #2631*

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: DOUGHERTY COUNTY

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Dougherty County

Population 85,038 · 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): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad range of non-PHF foods allowed including baked goods, candies, condiments, pickles, syrups, etc.; interstate sales now allowed; wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now permitted. Food handler certification still required. If using private water source, annual coliform testing required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in revised law; general sanitation expected.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Dougherty County and the City of Albany may have home occupation ordinances. No Dougherty County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Dougherty County Planning and Development or City of Albany planning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Under HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025), inspections are complaint-based only. No routine pre-operational inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad range of non-PHF foods allowed including baked goods, candies, condiments, pickles, syrups, etc.; interstate sales now allowed; wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now permitted. Food handler certification still required. If using private water source, annual coliform testing required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in revised law; general sanitation expected.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
HANDWASHING	Standard food handler hygiene requirements from certification training.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Under HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025), inspections are complaint-based only. No routine pre-operational inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Dougherty County and the City of Albany may have home occupation ordinances. No Dougherty County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Dougherty County Planning and Development or City of Albany planning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Since July 2025: direct and indirect sales permitted including wholesale, retail, online, restaurants, and interstate. All channels now open under HB 398.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law under new HB 398 framework.

Relevant county code

No Dougherty County-specific cottage food code identified. O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Dougherty County (Albany) follows Georgia’s cottage food law. Georgia underwent a major expansion in July 2025 via HB 398. The GDA cottage food page and Forrager confirm the new framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from GDA and Justia sources; Dougherty County-specific zoning not verified.

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/dougherty-county-discuss>

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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