

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Effingham County

Georgia · Springfield · FIPS 13103 · Population 65,314 ·
Crosodo Index #2735*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 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: EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2735* · FIPS 13103 · Springfield

Effingham County

Population 65,314 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 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-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Effingham County is a fast-growing county near Savannah. No specific Effingham County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning at (912) 754-2105.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well)
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Effingham County is a fast-growing county near Savannah. No specific Effingham County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning at (912) 754-2105.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under new law

Relevant county code

Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. Effingham County is a suburban Savannah county experiencing rapid growth. No specific county-level cottage food restrictions found. State tier 'Okay' in input reflects pre-July 2025 law; current law is much more permissive.

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/effingham-county-discuss>

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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