

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Forsyth County

Georgia · Cumming · FIPS 13117 · Population 253,225 ·  
Crosodo Index #2317\*

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: FORSYTH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2317\* · FIPS 13117 · Cumming

# Forsyth County

Population 253,225 · 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; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Forsyth 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 (Forsyth County Community Development may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Cumming city zoning may apply in incorporated areas. Check with Forsyth County Planning & Community Development.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025))

### Home kitchen rules

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

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025)
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Forsyth County Community Development may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Cumming city zoning may apply in incorporated areas. Check with Forsyth County Planning & Community Development.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

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

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Forsyth County zoning

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Forsyth County GA follows state baseline. Georgia HB 398 (July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No county-specific overrides found. Forsyth County is a fast-growing suburban Atlanta county. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.forsythco.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/forsyth-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Forsyth 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.

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

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

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

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