

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Gordon County

Georgia · Calhoun · FIPS 13129 · Population 57,785 · Crosodo Index #2755\*

## 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)

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## 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: GORDON COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2755\* · FIPS 13129 · Calhoun

# Gordon County

Population 57,785 · 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 (Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Broad list of permitted non-TCS foods. Food handler certification still required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Gordon County and City of Calhoun may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Gordon County Building and Zoning.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (GDA may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection required under HB 398.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Broad list of permitted non-TCS foods. Food handler certification still required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well water).
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific standalone handwashing mandate; food handler certification covers hygiene.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only; proper shelf-stable storage required.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection required under HB 398.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Gordon County and City of Calhoun may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Gordon County Building and Zoning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Very broad under HB 398: direct, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, interstate sales all permitted for non-TCS foods.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

Gordon County zoning code (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) is a major expansion making Georgia one of the best cottage food states. The pre-HB-398 regulations (GA R&R 40-7-19) required a \$100/year license and GDA inspections — all now eliminated. Gordon County is in northwest Georgia near Dalton. Interstate sales are now uniquely allowed in Georgia. Private well users must conduct annual coliform testing.

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#### 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/gordon-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Gordon 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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<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>	

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

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

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