

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hall County

Georgia · Gainesville · FIPS 13139 · Population 204,953 ·
Crosodo Index #2312*

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: HALL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2312* · FIPS 13139 · Gainesville

Hall County

Population 204,953 · 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 (Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Hall County (county seat: Gainesville) is a growing suburban/exurban county northeast of Atlanta.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Hall County and municipalities (Gainesville, Oakwood, Flowery Branch) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Hall County Planning & Zoning or relevant municipal planning office. Georgia HB 398 removed state licensing requirements but local zoning still applies.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Hall County (county seat: Gainesville) is a growing suburban/exurban county northeast of Atlanta. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law. |
| WATER SUPPLY | Private water source requires annual coliform testing. |
| HANDWASHING | Food handler certification required, covering handwashing and hygiene. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Hall County and municipalities (Gainesville, Oakwood, Flowery Branch) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Hall County Planning & Zoning or relevant municipal planning office. Georgia HB 398 removed state licensing requirements but local zoning still applies. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sales. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | No explicit employee cap in Georgia HB 398. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees. |

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 2025); Hall County zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia state baseline applies with the July 2025 HB 398 expansion. Hall County (county seat: Gainesville) is in northeast Georgia, a fast-growing county in the Atlanta metro area. No county-specific URLs provided. No Hall County-specific cottage food overrides documented.

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/hall-county-discuss>

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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