

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Murray County

Georgia · Chatsworth · FIPS 13213 · Population 41,316 ·  
Crosodo Index #2706\*

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

2026-05-06

**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: MURRAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2706\* · FIPS 13213 · Chatsworth

# Murray County

Population 41,316 · 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 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Murray County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Murray County's zoning ordinance.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>       | Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators. |
| <b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b> | No   |
| <b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>           | No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.  |
| <b>WATER SUPPLY</b>               | Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.   |
| <b>HANDWASHING</b>                | Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.   |
| <b>FOOD STORAGE</b>               | All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.   |

## Inspection & permitting

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>    | Upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.   |
| <b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b> | Varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Murray County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Murray County's zoning ordinance. |
| <b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b> | Yes   |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes  |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional  |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.  |

**Relevant county code**

Murray County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Murray County Code of Ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia’s 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/ counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Murray County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

**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/murray-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Murray 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><br/>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><br/>—</p>                      |
| <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b><br/>No</p>  | <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b><br/>Yes (specific course)</p> |
| <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b><br/>Upon-complaint</p>   | <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b><br/>No</p>                    |
| <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b><br/>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 Murray County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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