

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Newton County

Georgia · Covington · FIPS 13217 · Population 113,298 ·
Crosodo Index #2709*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required;
complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	—	MEDIUM	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: NEWTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2709* · FIPS 13217 · Covington

Newton County

Population 113,298 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based only. Newton County follows state baseline.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Newton County cottage food overlay found. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Newton County Planning and Zoning or Covington city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based only. Newton County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
HANDWASHING	No mandatory specific course under HB 398 no-license pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Newton County cottage food overlay found. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Newton County Planning and Zoning or Covington city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. Input state_tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Newton County is part of Atlanta metro (Covington known as 'Hollywood of the South' for film production). No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/newton-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Newton County	Walton County	Rockdale County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.	No specific restriction under current Georgia cottage food law (post-HB 398).	No specific restriction under current Georgia cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.	Sales allowed at farmers markets, online, from home, retail stores, restaurants, wholesale. Interstate sales expressly allowed under post-J...	Under post-July 2025 law: farmers markets, online, from home, retail stores, restaurants, wholesale all permitted. Interstate sales express...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based only. Newton County ...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retai...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee, complaint-based inspection only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/r...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	113,298	97,752	93,641

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Newton 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>STATUTE O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP —</p>
<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p>	<p>FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)</p>
<p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p>	<p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
<p>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.</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 Newton County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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