

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Paulding County

Georgia · Dallas · FIPS 13223 · Population 169,898 · Crosodo Index #2327*

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: PAULDING COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2327* · FIPS 13223 · Dallas

Paulding County

Population 169,898 · 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 (Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required, no GDA inspections (complaint-based only), interstate sales now allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using private water source. Food safety training required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction under new law; complaint-based inspections may address food safety concerns.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Georgia’s new cottage food law (HB 398, eff. July 2025) dramatically expanded allowances. Paulding County may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses under county zoning. County URLs were blank in input. Dallas city has separate municipal zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required, no GDA inspections (complaint-based only), interstate sales now allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using private water source. Food safety training required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction under new law; complaint-based inspections may address food safety concerns.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private water source.
HANDWASHING	Food safety training covers handwashing requirements.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based inspections only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine GDA inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Georgia’s new cottage food law (HB 398, eff. July 2025) dramatically expanded allowances. Paulding County may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses under county zoning. County URLs were blank in input. Dallas city has separate municipal zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No sales channel restrictions under HB 398 — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted. Interstate sales now allowed (rare nationally).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified under new law.

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; no specific Paulding County code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Major 2025 update: Georgia HB 398 effective July 1, 2025 dramatically expanded the cottage food law. The Crosodo input fields (tier 'Okay', ij_grade 'D+') reflect the pre-July 2025 state of the law. Under the new law Georgia allows interstate sales, wholesale/retail/restaurant sales, and has eliminated licensing requirements. Paulding County is a rapidly growing suburban county northwest of Atlanta. County URLs were blank in input. Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using private water source.

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/paulding-county-discuss>

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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