

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Alamance County

North Carolina · Graham · FIPS 37001 · Population 171,779 ·
Crosodo Index #1812*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	—	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.

How to start — 60-second path

Alamance County, North Carolina — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under North Carolina cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ North Carolina home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[North Carolina label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

NORTH CAROLINA: ALAMANCE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1812* · FIPS 37001 · Graham

Alamance County

Population 171,779 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. No refrigerated or frozen products.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alamance County zoning may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. NC is a Dillon's Rule state with broad municipal zoning grants. County URLs were blank in input. Graham city has separate municipal zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. No refrigerated or frozen products.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; private well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Dedicated handwashing sink required.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alamance County zoning may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. NC is a Dillon's Rule state with broad municipal zoning grants. County URLs were blank in input. Graham city has separate municipal zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; NC G.S. Chapter 106, Article 12

RESEARCH NOTES

Alamance County (Graham/Burlington area) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond NC state baseline. NC annual kitchen inspection distinguishes state from most others.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alamancecounty.gov>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-and-drug-protection/home-processor-inspections>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/alamance-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Alamance County	Orange County	Randolph County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.	Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and so...	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores. No geographic restriction within ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foo...	North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-st...	Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing ...
POPULATION	171,779	145,919	144,403

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Alamance County's rules sit on top of North Carolina's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
02 NCAC 9C.0307	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	No
INDIRECT SALES	

Yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **North Carolina cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

Questions about Alamance County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/alamance-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Alamance County, North Carolina. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/alamance-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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