

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cabarrus County

North Carolina · Concord · FIPS 37025 · Population 226,396 ·
Crosodo Index #1634*

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

Cabarrus 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 the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet presence anywhere in the home during production or inspection disqualifies the application.

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: CABARRUS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1634* · FIPS 37025 · Concord

Cabarrus County

Population 226,396 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be within the home (not a separate building, garage, or basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Cabarrus County applicants must also verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet presence anywhere in the home during production or inspection disqualifies the application.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (NC home processor program requires applicants to verify with local county/city planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the residence and whether permits are required. Cabarrus County Planning/Zoning and relevant municipalities (Concord, Kannapolis, etc.) may require a home occupation permit. HOA approval is also recommended. Applicants must document this on the NCDA&CS application (Section 2).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required before operating. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant 8-12 weeks after application submission to arrange inspection. Post-approval inspections may occur; no permit is issued but an inspection report and 'Notice of Inspection' are provided. Annual re-inspection is required to maintain status.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be within the home (not a separate building, garage, or basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Cabarrus County applicants must also verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet presence anywhere in the home during production or inspection disqualifies the application.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Non-public/well water: must be tested for coliforms within one year of application submission; store-bought test kit results not accepted.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen must have adequate handwashing facilities; inspector verifies during initial inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products may be stored. Areas used for material/ingredient/equipment storage are included in the inspection. Standard GMP storage requirements apply.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required before operating. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant 8-12 weeks after application submission to arrange inspection. Post-approval inspections may occur; no permit is issued but an inspection report and 'Notice of Inspection' are provided. Annual re-inspection is required to maintain status.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — NC home processor program requires applicants to verify with local county/city planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the residence and whether permits are required. Cabarrus County Planning/Zoning and relevant municipalities (Concord, Kannapolis, etc.) may require a home occupation permit. HOA approval is also recommended. Applicants must document this on the NCDA&CS application (Section 2).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order prohibition at state level; confirmation of zoning rules for home pickup recommended.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	NCDA&CS application asks for number of anticipated employees; no explicit statutory employee cap for home processors, but home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307 (NC Home Processor program); Cabarrus County Planning/Zoning (contact required per NC program Step 4)

RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence for state process: NCDA&CS application and home processor steps confirmed directly from official ncagr.gov sources. North Carolina's program is distinctive in requiring an annual inspection (no pet exception), local zoning verification, and water testing for wells. Cabarrus County is a suburban/exurban county in the Charlotte metro area. The county seat is Concord. No Cabarrus County-specific cottage food overrides found beyond the state process requirement for local zoning verification.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cabarruscounty.us>

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

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processing-app-pdf/download>

<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/cabarrus-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cabarrus County	Union County	Iredell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet p...	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant	Pets in home disqualify applicant; no pets allowed in household during registration under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order ...	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after inspection. City of Monroe has municipal zoning.	Direct sales allowed at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online and mail order permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...	Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-ris...
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products may be stored. Areas used for material/ingredient/equipment storage are included in t...	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	226,396	240,109	187,839

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Cabarrus 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 Cabarrus 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/cabarrus-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 Cabarrus 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/cabarrus-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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