

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Catawba County

North Carolina · Newton · FIPS 37035 · Population 161,011 ·
Crosodo Index #2780*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.

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: CATAWBA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2780* · FIPS 37035 · Newton

Catawba County

Population 161,011 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Catawba County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. NCDA&CS Home Processor registration is state-level. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement in standard state rules, though facility must meet GMP standards.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facility required per NCDA&CS Home Processor rules.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Catawba County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. NCDA&CS Home Processor registration is state-level. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and some retail channels. No sales requiring refrigeration.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Catawba County Zoning Ordinance; 02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. NC Home Processor program requires annual inspection — one of the most distinctive requirements in the US. Pet disqualification is an absolute rule. No Catawba County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.catawbacounty.gov>

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

<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>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Catawba County	Iredell County	Lincoln County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.	Pets in home disqualify applicant; no pets allowed in household during registration under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from operating a home-based food business under NC Home Processor program. This i...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and so...	Direct sales allowed at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online and mail order permitted. No sales cap.	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. No interstate sales.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-st...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-ris...	North Carolina requires a home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) disqualify the applicant entire...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Storage plan for supplies, equipment, and finished product must be provided with application. Areas where materials, ingredients, and equip...
POPULATION	161,011	187,839	87,933

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Catawba 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 Catawba 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/catawba-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 Catawba 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/catawba-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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