

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Davidson County

North Carolina · Lexington · FIPS 37057 · Population 169,498
· Crosodo Index #1815*

| 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.

NORTH CAROLINA: DAVIDSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1815* · FIPS 37057 · Lexington

Davidson County

Population 169,498 · 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 home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Davidson County zoning may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. NC Dillon's Rule state. County URLs were blank in input. Lexington 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 home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales cap. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely. |
| WATER SUPPLY | Potable water; private well water may require testing. |
| HANDWASHING | Dedicated handwashing sink required. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Shelf-stable storage only. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Yes — Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Davidson County zoning may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. NC Dillon's Rule state. County URLs were blank in input. Lexington 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

Davidson County has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond NC state baseline. County URLs were blank in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/davidson-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Davidson County | Rowan County | Randolph County |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Conditional | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely. | 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 home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales ... | 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 only. | 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 | 169,498 | 147,067 | 144,403 |

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Davidson 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](#).

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?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Davidson County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/davidson-county-discuss>
