

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Duplin County

North Carolina · Kenansville · FIPS 37061 · Population 49,312
· Crosodo Index #2802*

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: DUPLIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2802* · FIPS 37061 · Kenansville

Duplin County

Population 49,312 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP). Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products. Must verify with Duplin County planning that food business is permitted at property. Separate building kitchens not allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — disqualifies applicant from program.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Applicants must verify with Duplin County planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the property before applying for home processor inspection.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required before production. Annual re-inspection applies.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP). Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products. Must verify with Duplin County planning that food business is permitted at property. Separate building kitchens not allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — disqualifies applicant from program.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Well/non-public water: must have water tested for coliforms within one year of application.
HANDWASHING	Running water at suitable temperature and pressure required.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required before production. Annual re-inspection applies.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Applicants must verify with Duplin County planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the property before applying for home processor inspection.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Products may be sold at retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, and directly to consumers.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rules; county zoning may impose limits.

Relevant county code

NC Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; 21 CFR 117 Subpart B; 02 NCAC 9C.0307

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina home processor program requires annual kitchen inspection and prohibits pets. Duplin County is a rural eastern NC county known for poultry farming. No Duplin County-specific cottage food ordinances found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.duplincounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Duplin County	Lenoir County	Sampson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — disqualifies applicant from program.	Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This ...	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subp...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Products may be sold at retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, and directly to consumers.	Direct and indirect sales (retail, wholesale) permitted. Online sales and shipping within NC allowed.	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpa...	Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk non-refrigerated foods including baked goods, ...	NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk...
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products required.
POPULATION	49,312	55,071	59,317

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Duplin 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 02 NCAC 9C.0307	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY 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 Duplin County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

Classifieds

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

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

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