

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gates County

North Carolina · Gatesville · FIPS 37073 · Population 11,563 ·
Crosodo Index #2524*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	—	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

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: GATES COUNTY

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Gates County

Population 11,563 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Gates County is a very rural county in northeastern NC near the Virginia border; it is the only county in NC without an incorporated municipality. Zoning ordinance governs the unincorporated county. No Gates County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.

HANDWASHING

Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).

FOOD STORAGE

All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Gates County is a very rural county in northeastern NC near the Virginia border; it is the only county in NC without an incorporated municipality. Zoning ordinance governs the unincorporated county. No Gates County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. Gates County is notable as the only NC county with no incorporated municipality. No county-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.gatescounty.gov>

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

<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/gates-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gates County	Camden County	Chowan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.	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 permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no ...	Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no ...	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	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing ...	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing ...	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing ...
POPULATION	11,563	11,048	14,184

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Gates 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 Gates County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/gates-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

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

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

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

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