

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Henderson County

North Carolina · Hendersonville · FIPS 37089 · Population
116,469 · Crosodo Index #2426*

STATE BASELINE

02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required;
no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.

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: HENDERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2426* · FIPS 37089 · Hendersonville

Henderson County

Population 116,469 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required; no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Henderson County follows state baseline.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Henderson County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Henderson County Planning or Hendersonville city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Henderson County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required and assessed at annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH/water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Henderson County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Henderson County Planning or Hendersonville city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants). No sales cap. Shelf-stable only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (NC tier Good). Henderson County is in western NC near Asheville. Annual inspection and complete pet prohibition are key NC requirements. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hendersoncounty.gov>

<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/henderson-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Henderson County	Buncombe County	Rutherford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant from the NC home processor program	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants). No sales cap. Shelf-stable only.	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online); annual inspection report serves as authorization. ...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Henderson County follows ...	Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS before operating. Pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant entirely. Kitch...	NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH/ water activity testing.	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required
POPULATION	116,469	269,449	64,680

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Henderson 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 Henderson 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/henderson-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 Henderson 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/henderson-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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