

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Moore County

North Carolina · Carthage · FIPS 37125 · Population 100,759 ·  
Crosodo Index #1760\*

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: MOORE COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #1760\* · FIPS 37125 · Carthage

# Moore County

Population 100,759 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Moore County and municipalities (Carthage, Southern Pines, Pinehurst) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Moore County is known for Pinehurst golf resort area. No specific Moore County cottage food ordinance identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation, but sanitation reviewed during annual kitchen inspection.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing required; verified during annual inspection.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, seafood, bottled water/juice, bakery products with cream or cream cheese fillings or cheesecakes.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Moore County and municipalities (Carthage, Southern Pines, Pinehurst) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Moore County is known for Pinehurst golf resort area. No specific Moore County cottage food ordinance identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Moore County code section identified. State law governs: 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Moore County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Moore County includes the Pinehurst/Southern Pines golf resort area. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Moore County	Harnett County	Chatham County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	<b>PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 1...</b>	No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.	Pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program — this is a strict statewide requirement per 02 NCAC 9C.0307.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	<b>Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.</b>	Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC — home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores.	Direct and indirect sales permitted. No sales cap. Products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and through other chan...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	<b>North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&amp;CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted inc...</b>	Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated o...	Shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.
FOOD STORAGE	<b>Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s...</b>	Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.	Shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately. Products requiring refrigeration prohibited.
POPULATION	100,759	134,718	76,754

## State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

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

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