

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Onslow County

North Carolina · Jacksonville · FIPS 37133 · Population
203,686 · Crosodo Index #1816*

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: ONSLOW COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1816* · FIPS 37133 · Jacksonville

Onslow County

Population 203,686 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be in the home (not a separate building/garage/basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Onslow County (Jacksonville area, Camp Lejeune) applicants must verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (NC home processor program requires verification with local county/city planning that a food business is permitted at the residence. Onslow County Planning and Jacksonville City may require a home occupation permit. Contact Onslow County Planning or City of Jacksonville Planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection arranged by NCDA&CS 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be in the home (not a separate building/garage/basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Onslow County (Jacksonville area, Camp Lejeune) applicants must verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Non-public/well water: coliform test required within one year of application.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products only. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas included in inspection.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection arranged by NCDA&CS 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — NC home processor program requires verification with local county/city planning that a food business is permitted at the residence. Onslow County Planning and Jacksonville City may require a home occupation permit. Contact Onslow County Planning or City of Jacksonville Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Verify local zoning for home pickup.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit statutory employee cap; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; Onslow County zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina state baseline applies. Onslow County (county seat: Jacksonville) is home to Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. NC home processor program administered at state level; local zoning verification required as part of application.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/onslow-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Onslow County	Carteret County	Pender County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.	Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely	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	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Verify local zoning for home pickup.	Direct-to-consumer sales; no wholesale or retail resale	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permit...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...	Home processor registration required with NC Dept of Agriculture. Initial kitchen inspection required. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Shel...	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	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products only. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas included in inspection.	Shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.
POPULATION	203,686	68,353	61,592

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

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