

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Pender County

North Carolina · Burgaw · FIPS 37141 · Population 61,592 ·
Crosodo Index #2754*

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: PENDER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2754* · FIPS 37141 · Burgaw

Pender County

Population 61,592 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Pender County zoning may require a home occupation permit for business activities in a residence. Operators should contact Pender County Planning & Community Development.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).

WATER SUPPLY

Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Pender County zoning may require a home occupation permit for business activities in a residence. Operators should contact Pender County Planning & Community Development.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Conditional

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Pender County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Pender County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. The critical NC-specific restriction is that ANY pet in the home disqualifies the operator — this is stricter than most states. Annual kitchen inspection distinguishes NC from most states. Pender County Planning should be consulted for home occupation zoning compliance.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.pendercounty.gov>

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

<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>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Pender County	Sampson County	Columbus County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	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...	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...	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — presence of any indoor pet disqualifies the applicant.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permit...	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under ...	Products may be sold directly to consumers at retail stores, restaurants, and farmers markets, or via direct-to-consumer delivery. No expli...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk...	NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk...	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...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products required.	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.
POPULATION	61,592	59,317	50,827

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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

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Advertise here — Insurance

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Pender 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

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

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