

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Rowan County

North Carolina · Salisbury · FIPS 37159 · Population 147,067 ·
Crosodo Index #2784*

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: ROWAN COUNTY

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Rowan County

Population 147,067 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Rowan County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement in standard state rules, though facility must meet GMP standards.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facility required per NCDA&CS Home Processor rules.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Rowan County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and some retail channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Rowan County Zoning Ordinance; 02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. NC Home Processor program requires annual inspection. Pet disqualification is an absolute rule. No Rowan County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.rowancounty.gov>

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

<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/rowan-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Rowan County	Davidson County	Iredell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely.	Pets in home disqualify applicant; no pets allowed in household during registration under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and so...	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.	Direct sales allowed at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online and mail order permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-st...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales ...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-ris...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.	Shelf-stable storage only.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	147,067	169,498	187,839

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Rowan 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/rowan-county-discuss

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