

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Wayne County

North Carolina · Goldsboro · FIPS 37191 · Population 117,480 ·
Crosodo Index #2422*

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.

NORTH CAROLINA: WAYNE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2422* · FIPS 37191 · Goldsboro

Wayne County

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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. Wayne 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 Wayne 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 Wayne County Planning or Goldsboro city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Wayne 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. Refrigerated/frozen prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required to maintain registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Wayne 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 Wayne County Planning or Goldsboro 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 products 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). Wayne County includes Goldsboro (pop ~35K) and is in eastern NC. Annual inspection and pet prohibition are key NC requirements. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/wayne-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Wayne County	Wilson County	Johnston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	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.	Pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program. This is a strict requirement per 02 NCAC 9C.0307.	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements (21 CF...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants). No sales cap. Shelf-stable products only.	Direct and indirect sales permitted. Shelf-stable products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and through other chann...	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. No internet-sale prohibition at state level. Verify l...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Wayne County follows stat...	Shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely per GM...	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH/ water activity testing. Refrigerated/frozen prohibited.	Shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately. Products requiring refrigeration are prohibited.	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas inspected.
POPULATION	117,480	78,667	219,042

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

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