

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Charles City County

Virginia · Charles City · FIPS 51036 · Population 6,564 ·
Crosodo Index #320*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Charles City County, Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Virginia cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Virginia home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Virginia label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

VIRGINIA: CHARLES CITY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #320* · FIPS 51036 · Charles City

Charles City County

Population 6,564 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level. Local ordinances are NOT preempted — cities and counties may impose additional requirements. Many Virginia localities require a general business license (\$30–\$100/yr). Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets/temporary events (≤14 days). Online sales prohibited (advertising allowed but no e-commerce transactions). Required label: producer name, physical address, phone, processing date, and 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (Charles City County is subject to Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130), which requires no state permit, registration, or inspection. Virginia does NOT preempt local ordinances — cities and counties may impose additional requirements. Many Virginia localities require a general business license (\$30–\$100/yr). Contact the Charles City County administrator or county clerk for any local business license or home occupation permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required at state level.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level. Local ordinances are NOT preempted — cities and counties may impose additional requirements. Many Virginia localities require a general business license (\$30–\$100/yr). Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets/temporary events (≤14 days). Online sales prohibited (advertising allowed but no e-commerce transactions). Required label: producer name, physical address, phone, processing date, and 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.

HANDWASHING

No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general food safety practice.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS), shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required at state level.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — Charles City County is subject to Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130), which requires no state permit, registration, or inspection. Virginia does NOT preempt local ordinances — cities and counties may impose additional requirements. Many Virginia localities require a general business license (\$30–\$100/yr). Contact the Charles City County administrator or county clerk for any local business license or home occupation permit requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets and temporary events (events capped at 14 consecutive days). No online sales, mail order, wholesale, or retail sales. No shipping.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130 (Home Kitchen Food Processing Exemptions); local ordinances not preempted — verify local business license requirements.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied. Good tier state. Allowed foods: Non-TCS shelf-stable foods including candies, jams/jellies, dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixtures, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (equilibrium pH 4.6 or lower) subject to a separate annual cap. Prohibited: TCS (time/temperature control for safety) foods are prohibited. Products cannot be sold online, via mail order, to retailers, or for resale.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.charlescounty.gov>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/virginia/charles-city-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Charles City County	New Kent County	Prince George County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction.	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets and temporary events (events capped at 14 consecutive days). No online sale...	Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale.	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Likely	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level....	Virginia Home Kitchen Food Processing Exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) permits direct-to-consumer sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a p...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Prince George County has a planning and zoning department with Chapter ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS), shelf-stable foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	6,760	23,296	42,634

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Charles City County's rules sit on top of Virginia's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Products must be sold in person in the Commonwealth to an individual for his own consumption and not for resale or consignment. They cannot be offered for sale to be used in or offered for consumption in retail food establishments. Sales venues are limited to: private home, temporary event (no more than 14 consecutive days), or farmers market. Internet advertising is explicitly permitted but sales must remain in-person and in-state.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Virginia cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/virginia.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/virginia/>

Questions about Charles City County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/virginia/charles-city-county-discuss

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

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

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

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

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

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

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Charles City County, Virginia. 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 on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/virginia/charles-city-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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