

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Pulaski County

Virginia · Pulaski · FIPS 51155 · Population 33,579 · Crosodo  
Index #1710\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Va. Code §3.2-5130	Good	Tiered	MEDIUM	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.

VIRGINIA: PULASKI COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1710\* · FIPS 51155 · Pulaski

# Pulaski County

Population 33,579 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Pulaski County has a comprehensive Unified Development Ordinance (UDO, last amended November 2024) that governs all land uses. The UDO requires a Zoning Permit for changes in use or occupancy. Home occupation provisions are contained within the UDO’s use table and development standards. For the VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathway, written zoning approval from the county UDO Administrator is required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Pulaski County UDO (November 2024) governs home occupation uses. A Zoning Permit may be required for change in use or occupancy. The UDO Administrator should be contacted for guidance on home occupation approvals. Contact Pulaski County Planning and Zoning for specific requirements and fees. For VDACS home food processing permit, written zoning approval is required.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (VDACS home food processing permit: initial inspection required. Cottage food exemption: no routine inspection; complaint-based only.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Pulaski County has a comprehensive Unified Development Ordinance (UDO, last amended November 2024) that governs all land uses. The UDO requires a Zoning Permit for changes in use or occupancy. Home occupation provisions are contained within the UDO’s use table and development standards. For the VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathway, written zoning approval from the county UDO Administrator is required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water supply requires coliform-free water test results for VDACS home food processing permit pathway.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing per GMP for VDACS permit pathway.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — VDACS home food processing permit: initial inspection required. Cottage food exemption: no routine inspection; complaint-based only.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Pulaski County UDO (November 2024) governs home occupation uses. A Zoning Permit may be required for change in use or occupancy. The UDO Administrator should be contacted for guidance on home occupation approvals. Contact Pulaski County Planning and Zoning for specific requirements and fees. For VDACS home food processing permit, written zoning approval is required.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales allowed.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Virginia state law does not specify a home-based food employee limit. Local UDO may restrict non-resident employee presence.

### Relevant county code

Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance (November 2024) (home occupation provisions); Va. Code §3.2-5130 (cottage food exemption); VDACS Home Food Processing regulations

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Pulaski County UDO (November 2024) confirmed from official pulaskicounty.org PDF. UDO is the comprehensive zoning and development code. A Zoning Permit is required for changes in use/ occupancy. Specific home occupation section language not retrieved from full UDO, but framework confirmed. State cottage food baseline applies for food rules. Medium confidence: UDO existence and general framework confirmed; specific home occupation permit details not retrieved.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.pulaskicounty.org/departments/planning-zoning/>

<https://www.pulaskicounty.org/>

<https://www.pulaskicounty.org/documents/planning-zoning/ordinances/udo-nov-2024.pdf>

<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?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/pulaski-county-discuss>

## State context — Virginia cottage food law

Pulaski 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.

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### 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.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Virginia cottage food law report](#).

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Pulaski County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/pulaski-county-discuss>

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