

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Roanoke County

Virginia · — · FIPS 51161 · Population 96,653 · Crosodo Index #2124*

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

VIRGINIA: ROANOKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2124* · FIPS 51161 · —

Roanoke County

Population 96,653 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. No stated cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Label must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Roanoke County (distinct from Roanoke City) has home occupation regulations requiring home-based businesses to be accessory uses in residential dwellings; contact Planning and Zoning at (540) 772-2068 for specifics.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Roanoke County has home occupation regulations (view Home Occupation Regulations at roanokecountyva.gov). More than one home occupation permitted per dwelling but each must meet set standards and maintain residential character. Contact Roanoke County Planning and Zoning at (540) 772-2068 for permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. No stated cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Label must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Roanoke County (distinct from Roanoke City) has home occupation regulations requiring home-based businesses to be accessory uses in residential dwellings; contact Planning and Zoning at (540) 772-2068 for specifics.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under Virginia cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Roanoke County has home occupation regulations (view Home Occupation Regulations at roanokecountyva.gov). More than one home occupation permitted per dwelling but each must meet set standards and maintain residential character. Contact Roanoke County Planning and Zoning at (540) 772-2068 for permit requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia allows direct sales; Roanoke County home occupation rules require residential character be maintained and may restrict customer visits. Farmers markets, events, and in-state online delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Limited to residential character per Roanoke County home occupation rules.

Relevant county code

Roanoke County home occupation regulations (roanokecountyva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5647)

RESEARCH NOTES

Roanoke County (FIPS 51161) is distinct from Roanoke City (FIPS 51770). Roanoke County FAQ confirms home-based businesses are allowed as accessory uses in residential dwellings; multiple home occupations per unit permitted but each must meet set standards. Home Occupation Regulations document at roanokecountyva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5647. No county-specific cottage food permit beyond Virginia state requirements. The county has no independent city status and does not include the City of Roanoke.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.roanokecountyva.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/>

<https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/FAQ.aspx?QID=301>

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

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Roanoke 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](#).

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?

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

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