

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Baldwin County

Alabama · Bay Minette · FIPS 01003 · Population 233,420 ·
Crosodo Index #1828*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Baldwin County, Alabama — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Alabama 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
- ☐ Alabama home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Alabama label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

ALABAMA: BALDWIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1828* · FIPS 01003 · Bay Minette

Baldwin County

Population 233,420 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department approval. Applications and fees vary by county. Sample label, product list, and proof of training required. No sales cap (removed 2021). Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021 amendment). Direct sales only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Baldwin County municipalities may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Producers must obtain Baldwin County Health Department approval as part of the cottage food registration process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial county health department approval required; Baldwin County Health Department reviews application)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department approval. Applications and fees vary by county. Sample label, product list, and proof of training required. No sales cap (removed 2021). Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021 amendment). Direct sales only.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water supply; private well may require testing per county health dept

HANDWASHING

State-approved food safety course required before selling

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial county health department approval required; Baldwin County Health Department reviews application

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Baldwin County municipalities may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Producers must obtain Baldwin County Health Department approval as part of the cottage food registration process.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only to consumers; online sales and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale to retail establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Baldwin County Health Department registration

RESEARCH NOTES

Baldwin County AL follows Alabama state baseline (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1). Alabama requires county health dept approval with varying fees by county — Baldwin County Health Department administers. No sales cap since 2021 amendment (SB 160). State law confirmed. No specific Baldwin County Health Department cottage food page found in search. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baldwincountyal.gov>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Baldwin County	Mobile County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only to consumers; online sales and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale to retail establishments.	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishm...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department ap...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or AC...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	233,420	413,878	23,058

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

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

Questions about Baldwin 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/alabama/baldwin-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 Baldwin County, Alabama. 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/alabama/baldwin-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise