

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cullman County

Alabama · Cullman · FIPS 01043 · Population 88,284 ·
Crosodo Index #1602*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.

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: CULLMAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1602* · FIPS 01043 · Cullman

Cullman County

Population 88,284 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved food safety course. Must submit a cottage food review form to the local county health department (Cullman County Health Department). Direct sales to consumers only (in-person, phone, online within Alabama). No county or state health department permit required beyond the review form submission.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state-level home occupation permit requirement for cottage food. Cullman County and the City of Cullman may have home occupation ordinances. Producers should check with Cullman County Planning/Zoning or City of Cullman Planning Department for any home-based business requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Alabama statute §22-20-5.1(b) states that a cottage food operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit. Neither the state nor county health department may regulate cottage food production except as provided in §22-20-5.1. Inspections may occur in response to illness complaints.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved food safety course. Must submit a cottage food review form to the local county health department (Cullman County Health Department). Direct sales to consumers only (in-person, phone, online within Alabama). No county or state health department permit required beyond the review form submission.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement; standard potable water.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory handwashing infrastructure requirement; safe food handling expected.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Alabama statute §22-20-5.1(b) states that a cottage food operation is not a food service establishment and is not required to have a food service permit. Neither the state nor county health department may regulate cottage food production except as provided in §22-20-5.1. Inspections may occur in response to illness complaints.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No state-level home occupation permit requirement for cottage food. Cullman County and the City of Cullman may have home occupation ordinances. Producers should check with Cullman County Planning/Zoning or City of Cullman Planning Department for any home-based business requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Cullman County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State law Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 governs. Cottage food review form submitted to Cullman County Health Department.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law requires: (1) approved food safety course; (2) cottage food review form submitted to local county health department; (3) proper labeling per §22-20-5.1(e). The county health department role is to receive the review form, not to issue a permit. State statute confirms no food service permit is required. Cullman County Health Department administers the review form process. No specific Cullman County overrides found. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official ADPH PDF and Justia; county-specific rules not verified from county .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cullmancounty.gov>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagfoodlawinformation.pdf>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cullman County	Marshall County	Morgan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law, but good sanitary practices expected.	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only within Alabama: in-person, phone orders, online sales with in-state delivery. Retail/wholesale not permitted.	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.	Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must operate from home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods are allowed (no meat, poultry, fish). Must complete a state-approved f...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food sa...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.
POPULATION	88,284	97,923	123,102

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Cullman 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 Cullman 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/cullman-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 Cullman 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/cullman-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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