

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dale County

Alabama · Ozark · FIPS 01045 · Population 49,455 · Crosodo
Index #806*

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

Dale 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

No

PETS

**Not explicitly restricted by state law;
standard sanitation applies.**

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: DALE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #806* · FIPS 01045 · Ozark

Dale County

Population 49,455 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in Alabama (in person, phone, online, mail). Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No meat, poultry, or fish.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Dale County health department review required (of food safety course certificate and product labels) before obtaining business license. Local county home occupation permit requirements not found in research; recommend verifying with Dale County and City of Ozark.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. No kitchen inspection. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directly to consumers in Alabama (in person, phone, online, mail). Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No meat, poultry, or fish.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply; no special testing required.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices; no explicit handwashing station requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — County health department reviews food safety course certificate and product labels only. No kitchen inspection. ADPH may act on foodborne illness complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Dale County health department review required (of food safety course certificate and product labels) before obtaining business license. Local county home occupation permit requirements not found in research; recommend verifying with Dale County and City of Ozark.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Dale County zoning/home occupation ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) allows cottage food production without kitchen inspection. Dale County includes Fort Rucker (now Fort Novosel, a U.S. Army installation). No Dale County-specific cottage food ordinances found beyond state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dalecounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dale County	Coffee County	Houston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.	No explicit state or county rule; standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...	Direct to consumer. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibi...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Must get approval from Coffee County Health Department. Products limited to...	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-pote...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. Acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water activity testing.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...
POPULATION	49,455	53,559	107,040

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Dale 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 Dale 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/dale-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 Dale 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/dale-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