

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# DeKalb County

Alabama · Fort Payne · FIPS 01049 · Population 71,680 ·  
Crosodo Index #1596\*

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

DeKalb 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

**Not specified in state law**

### 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: DEKALB COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1596\* · FIPS 01049 · Fort Payne

## DeKalb County

Population 71,680 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county govt URL provided. DeKalb County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. City of Fort Payne has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods. Acidified foods (pickles, etc.) require pH testing. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state law

## WATER SUPPLY

Standard residential water supply

## HANDWASHING

Required as part of food handler course

## FOOD STORAGE

Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — No county govt URL provided. DeKalb County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. City of Fort Payne has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

## Customer-facing rules

## ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Yes

## ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

## DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed

## MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Alabama Good-tier state. No county-specific sources available. State law allows online/in-state shipping since 2021 amendment. Food handler cert required. Pattern-verified county with no county-specific overrides found.

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**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.dekalbcounty.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/dekalb-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/dekalb-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | DeKalb County                                                                                                                                  | Marshall County                                                                                                                                | Etowah County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified in state law                                                                                                                     | No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.                                               | No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.                                                                    |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | In-state delivery and shipping permitted; online sales allowed                                                                                 | Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.          | Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.       |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | No sales cap. Specific food handler course required. No kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Prohibited: meat, pou... | 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 requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Appropriate storage for shelf-stable products                                                                                                  | Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.                                                                 | Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi... |
| POPULATION                 | 71,680                                                                                                                                         | 97,923                                                                                                                                         | 103,348                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

DeKalb 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.

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**STATUTE**

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

**ANNUAL SALES CAP**

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**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.

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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](https://crosodo.com/states/alabama).

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**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/>

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**Questions about DeKalb 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/dekalb-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/dekalb-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in DeKalb County, Alabama. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/dekalb-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/dekalb-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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