

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Etowah County

Alabama · Gadsden · FIPS 01055 · Population 103,348 ·  
Crosodo Index #1758\*

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

Etowah 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

**No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.**

### 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: ETOWAH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1758\* · FIPS 01055 · Gadsden

## Etowah County

Population 103,348 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Gadsden and Etowah County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Etowah County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Etowah County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). No sales cap.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

## WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.

## HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing required per food safety course training.

## FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohibited. Acidified foods require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Etowah County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Gadsden and Etowah County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Etowah County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                      |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                              |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state statute.                                                                                                          |

**Relevant county code**

No specific Etowah County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Etowah County Health Department administers local approval.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Etowah County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Etowah County                                                                                                                                  | Marshall County                                                                                                                                | Calhoun County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.                                                                    | No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.                                               | Standard sanitation practices; no specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods.                                                       |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited.       | 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 (2021 amendment). No interstate shipping. No wholesale or retail store channels.      |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote... | 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 obta... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi... | Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.                                                                 | Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods require pH testing.                          |
| POPULATION                 | 103,348                                                                                                                                        | 97,923                                                                                                                                         | 116,162                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Etowah 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](https://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 Etowah 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/etowah-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/etowah-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 Etowah 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/etowah-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/etowah-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](https://crosodo.com/advertise)