

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Alabama · Birmingham · FIPS 01073 · Population 672,265 ·
Crosodo Index #1761*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (2021 amendment, SB 160/Act 2021-461); no sales cap

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

Jefferson 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

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified; 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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1761* · FIPS 01073 · Birmingham

Jefferson County

Population 672,265 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (2021 amendment, SB 160/Act 2021-461);
no sales cap · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. Application and fee required through Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). Non-potentially hazardous foods only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Jefferson County Department of Health administers cottage food registration (includes proof of food safety training, sample label, product list). County fee applies. For the business zoning aspect: Jefferson County Planning and Zoning for unincorporated areas; City of Birmingham Planning, Engineering & Permits for incorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (JCDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections under state law.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. Application and fee required through Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). Non-potentially hazardous foods only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification from state-approved program required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; non-PHF only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — JCDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections under state law.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Jefferson County Department of Health administers cottage food registration (includes proof of food safety training, sample label, product list). County fee applies. For the business zoning aspect: Jefferson County Planning and Zoning for unincorporated areas; City of Birmingham Planning, Engineering & Permits for incorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-state shipping. No sales cap (2021 amendment removed prior cap).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Jefferson County Department of Health cottage food application process

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County Alabama follows state baseline. The JCDH administers cottage food applications and fees vary by county per state law. Alabama's 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed the prior sales cap, expanded the allowed foods list, and added online sales/in-state shipping. Before selling, producers must complete a state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. No Jefferson County-specific restriction beyond state baseline found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jcdh.org>

<https://www.jccal.org/planning>

<https://www.jccal.org>

<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/jefferson-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Jefferson County	Tuscaloosa County	Shelby County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-stat...	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.	Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment)...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. A...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requir...	Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing	Non-TCS, non-perishable storage required. Products must be shelf-stable.
POPULATION	672,265	231,558	223,916

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Jefferson 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 Jefferson 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/jefferson-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 Jefferson 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/jefferson-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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