

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Lee County

Alabama · Opelika · FIPS 01081 · Population 175,126 ·  
Crosodo Index #1128\*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Yes**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**No**

PETS

**Lee County Health Department  
inspects the home kitchen; pets likely  
required away from food prep areas  
during production.**

### 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: LEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1128\* · FIPS 01081 · Opelika

## Lee County

Population 175,126 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment. No sales cap (removed by 2021 SB 160).)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Opelika (Lee County seat) requires a home occupation permit and business license for home-based businesses (Zoning Ordinance Section 8.14). Requirements: permit from Zoning Administrator before operating, no more than 25% of total floor area (max 500 sq ft), must be incidental to residential use, residents only conduct business, no outdoor storage/display, one small sign (max 2 sq ft, on door/window). Maximum one non-resident employee. County/unincorporated Lee County areas have separate zoning rules.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspections post-approval. Health department may investigate upon complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Online and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment. No sales cap (removed by 2021 SB 160).

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.

## WATER SUPPLY

Potable water supply; reviewed during health department approval.

## HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities; reviewed during health department approval.

## FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine inspections post-approval. Health department may investigate upon complaint.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — Opelika (Lee County seat) requires a home occupation permit and business license for home-based businesses (Zoning Ordinance Section 8.14). Requirements: permit from Zoning Administrator before operating, no more than 25% of total floor area (max 500 sq ft), must be incidental to residential use, residents only conduct business, no outdoor storage/display, one small sign (max 2 sq ft, on door/window). Maximum one non-resident employee. County/unincorporated Lee County areas have separate zoning rules.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                          |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.               |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | One non-resident employee maximum per Opelika zoning ordinance. State law focuses on cottage food production by registered operator. |

**Relevant county code**

Opelika Zoning Ordinance §8.14 (Home Occupation); Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Opelika city zoning ordinance (Section 8.14) directly retrieved from official Opelika city website. Home occupation permit required from Zoning Administrator, max 25% floor area (up to 500 sq ft), residents-only operation with one non-resident employee exception. Baking explicitly listed as an example of permitted home occupation. Alabama cottage food law requires local county health department approval before selling. Lee County website confirmed at leeco.us. 2021 amendment removed sales cap and added online/in-state shipping.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.leeco.us>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://www.opelika-al.gov/DocumentCenter/View/602/Home-Occupation-PDF?bidId=>

<https://www.opelika-al.gov/1154/Home-Occupation-Home-Business-PDF>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lee-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lee-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Lee County                                                                                                                                       | Russell County                                                                                                                                 | Chambers County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                               | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.                        | No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.                                                                                         | Not specified in state statute.                                                                                                                |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                               | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                              | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                      | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.                           | Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.                          | Direct to consumer only within Alabama.                                                                                                        |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Yes                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Yes                                                                                                                                              | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous... | Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ... | Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.                                                                                   | Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.                                                                                            | Not specifically regulated.                                                                                                                    |
| POPULATION                 | 175,126                                                                                                                                          | 58,849                                                                                                                                         | 34,612                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Lee 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 Lee 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/lee-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lee-county-discuss)

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## 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 Lee 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/lee-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/lee-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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