COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Limestone County

Alabama · Athens · FIPS 01083 · Population 104,199 · Crosodo Index #760*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	Good	—	MEDIUM	2026-10-06

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?	STATE SALES CAP
Yes	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?	**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**
Conditional	Yes
INSPECTION	**PETS**
No	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 →

Print labels for your first market →

Local notes & questions →

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ALABAMA: LIMESTONE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #760* · FIPS 01083 · Athens

Limestone County

Population 104,199 · 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 (Athens and Limestone County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Limestone County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?
No (Limestone 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 & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Limestone County Health Department must approve applications. Requires proof of training, sample label, product list. Fees and approval vary by county.
LOCAL HEALTH / COUNTY REGISTRATION	Yes
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Athens and Limestone County municipalities may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Limestone 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 Limestone County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Limestone County Health Department (Athens office) administers local approval.

RESEARCH NOTES

Limestone County has no county URLs in the input. Note: the input lists the county_seat as 'Washington Street Courthouse Annex' which is a descriptor not a city name — the actual county seat is Athens, AL. State baseline governs. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.limestonecounty.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/limestone-county-discuss

Limestone County and nearby places

Regulation	Limestone County	Lauderdale County	Morgan 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; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	**No**	No	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 (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ...
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. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ...
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.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.
POPULATION	**104,199**	94,329	123,102

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Limestone 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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
No

KITCHEN INSPECTION
No

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.

ANNUAL SALES CAP
—

FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes

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 Limestone 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/limestone-county-discuss

RESEARCH NOTES

Baker's Notes

Research notes, not a state ruling. Baker talk is what people discuss. Official pages are cited separately. Confirm before you sell.

Sell to stores (next level)

Cottage / home-kitchen exemptions are usually direct-to-consumer and not for resale into stores. Selling into retail stores typically requires a state manufactured-food (or equivalent) permit and an inspected production kitchen, plus local zoning and business licensing.

This county: We have not collected local store-shelf notes for this place yet.

Confirm with the state food agency and local planning / commissioner offices before you sell into stores. Not legal advice.

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 Limestone 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/limestone-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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