COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Marion County

Alabama · Hamilton · FIPS 01093 · Population 29,323 · Crosodo Index #747*

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

Marion 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 restriction; standard sanitation best 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: MARION COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #747* · FIPS 01093 · Hamilton

Marion County

Population 29,323 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?
Yes (Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, $25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?
No

PETS ALLOWED?
No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?
Conditional (No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?
No (State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, $25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certificate, sample product label, completed cottage food review form) with local county health department. Fees vary by county. Business license required from municipality.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard potable water; no specific state-level home kitchen water testing requirement for cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.
LOCAL HEALTH / COUNTY REGISTRATION	Yes
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit state limit; operation must remain home-based.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state law governs; county health departments have no independent regulatory authority over cottage food operations beyond document review).

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) explicitly preempts county health departments from adding requirements beyond reviewing food safety course certification and product labels. No home kitchen inspection required. Business license required at city/municipality level — fees and process vary locally. Food safety course certification (ACES or ANSI-accredited, $25, valid 3 years) required before selling. County-specific URLs not confirmed; state-level rules apply uniformly across all counties. No county-specific ordinances found that deviate from state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.marioncounty.gov

https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/

https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf

http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/alabama/marion-county-discuss

Marion County and nearby places

Regulation	Marion County	Franklin County	Winston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	**No**	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	**No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.**	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	**No**	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	**Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...**	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	**Conditional**	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	**Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, $25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...**	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, $25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, $25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	**Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.**	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	**29,203**	32,011	23,655

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Marion 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 Marion 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/marion-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 Marion 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/marion-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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