

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Morgan County

Alabama · Decatur · FIPS 01103 · Population 123,102 ·  
Crosodo Index #779\*

## STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (as amended 2021); no sales cap; food handler cert required; no inspection; registration required; direct sales only (online/in-state shipping allowed)

| STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Good       | —                        | MEDIUM     | 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

Morgan 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

**No**

PETS

**No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; 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: MORGAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #779\* · FIPS 01103 · Decatur

# Morgan County

Population 123,102 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (as amended 2021); no sales cap; food handler cert required; no inspection; registration required; direct sales only (online/in-state shipping allowed) · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. Morgan County Environmental Health likely administers local approvals.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Alabama county health departments approve cottage food applications and may impose local requirements. Morgan County Environmental Health (part of Alabama Department of Public Health district) administers approval process. Producers must submit proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. No specific home occupation permit information found for Morgan County beyond state health department approval process.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications. Complaint-driven investigation possible.)

**Home kitchen rules**

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get county health department approval. Morgan County Environmental Health likely administers local approvals. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.                                                                                                                                                             |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required per state food safety standards.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| HANDWASHING                | Food handler certification (state-approved course such as Learn2Serve or ACES) required before selling.                                                                                                                                                    |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.                                                                                                                            |

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — Alabama does not require routine kitchen inspections. County health departments review applications. Complaint-driven investigation possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Alabama county health departments approve cottage food applications and may impose local requirements. Morgan County Environmental Health (part of Alabama Department of Public Health district) administers approval process. Producers must submit proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list. Fees vary by county. No specific home occupation permit information found for Morgan County beyond state health department approval process. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                        |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail store channels. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | No specific state limit; local zoning rules may apply.                                                                                                     |

**Relevant county code**

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

**RESEARCH NOTES**

State baseline applied (AL tier Good). Alabama requires food handler certification and county health department approval. Morgan County includes Decatur (city pop ~55K). No specific county-level URLs provided in input. Alabama's county health departments vary in fee structure and processing; contact Morgan County Environmental Health for current specifics. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.co.morgan.al.us>

<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/morgan-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/morgan-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Morgan County                                                                                                                                  | Limestone County                                                                                                                               | Marshall County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply.                                                 | No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.                                                                    | No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.                                               |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ... | 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.          |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ... | 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... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing.                | 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.                                                                 |
| POPULATION                 | 123,102                                                                                                                                        | 104,199                                                                                                                                        | 97,923                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Morgan 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 Morgan 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/morgan-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/morgan-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 Morgan 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/morgan-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/morgan-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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