

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Tuscaloosa County

Alabama · Tuscaloosa · FIPS 01125 · Population 231,558 ·
Crosodo Index #1821*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

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

Tuscaloosa 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

Yes

PETS

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

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: TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1821* · FIPS 01125 · Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa County

Population 231,558 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap. Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021). Direct sales only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Tuscaloosa County and City of Tuscaloosa may require home occupation permits. County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval required; application review process)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap. Online and in-state shipping allowed (2021). Direct sales only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well testing per county health dept requirements
HANDWASHING	State-approved food safety course required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval required; application review process
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Tuscaloosa County and City of Tuscaloosa may require home occupation permits. County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Tuscaloosa County Health Department registration

RESEARCH NOTES

Tuscaloosa County AL follows Alabama state baseline. Home of University of Alabama. No sales cap since 2021 amendment. No specific Tuscaloosa County Health Department cottage food page found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tusco.com>

<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/tuscaloosa-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Tuscaloosa County	Jefferson County	Walker County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.	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 sales and in-state shipping allowed since 2021. No interstate shipping.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requir...	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 (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) before selling. Application to local county health d...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required
POPULATION	231,558	672,265	64,978

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Tuscaloosa 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 Tuscaloosa 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/tuscaloosa-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 Tuscaloosa 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/tuscaloosa-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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