

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Alachua County

Florida · Gainesville · FIPS 12001 · Population 279,729 ·  
Crosodo Index #1934\*

## STATE BASELINE

**Fla. Stat. \$500.80; no registration or inspection required; \$250,000 annual sales cap; home kitchen allowed**

| STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Great      | 250000                   | 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

Alachua County, Florida — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**250000**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint**

PETS

**No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Florida 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
- ☐ Florida home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

**Open the live county page →**

**Florida label one-pager →**

**Local notes & questions →**

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

## FLORIDA: ALACHUA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1934\* · FIPS 12001 · Gainesville

# Alachua County

Population 279,729 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80; no registration or inspection required; \$250,000 annual sales cap; home kitchen allowed · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; labeling with disclaimer required; \$250,000 annual cap; no state license or inspection)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (FL does not preempt local zoning. Alachua County and City of Gainesville (University of Florida) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (FDACS or county health may investigate on complaint)

**Home kitchen rules**

|                            |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Non-TCS foods only; labeling with disclaimer required; \$250,000 annual cap; no state license or inspection |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies                                                         |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required                                                                                            |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard handwashing                                                                                              |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods                                                                                 |

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — FDACS or county health may investigate on complaint                                                                                                                               |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — FL does not preempt local zoning. Alachua County and City of Gainesville (University of Florida) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                              |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                      |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct and limited indirect sales; online, farmers markets, and events permitted |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified                                                                    |

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Alachua County has FL Dept of Health county office ([alachua.floridahealth.gov](http://alachua.floridahealth.gov)). County includes Gainesville (UF). No county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond FL state baseline.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://alachua.floridahealth.gov>

<https://alachuacounty.us>

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Alachua County                                                                                              | Marion County                                                                                                                                  | Putnam County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                          | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies                                                   | No specific state restriction.                                                                                                                 | Not specified in state statute.                                                                                                                |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                              | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                 | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct and limited indirect sales; online, farmers markets, and events permitted                            | Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.                                              | Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. \$250,000 annual sales cap.                                                          |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                      | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                      | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Non-TCS foods only; labeling with disclaimer required; \$250,000 annual cap; no state license or inspection | Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC... | Any non-TCS food. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)). Must comply with home-based... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods                                                                           | Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.                                                                                                            | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.                                                                                       |
| POPULATION                 | 279,729                                                                                                     | 378,225                                                                                                                                        | 73,604                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Florida cottage food law

Alachua County's rules sit on top of Florida's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| STATUTE                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| Fla. Stat. §500.80                                                                                                                                                                                            | 250000            |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                         | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No                |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION                                                                                                                                                                                            | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                                                                                | No                |
| INDIRECT SALES                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations. |                   |

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Florida cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/florida](https://crosodo.com/states/florida).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html)

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/florida/>

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**Questions about Alachua 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/florida/alachua-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/alachua-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 Alachua County, Florida. 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/florida/alachua-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/alachua-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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