

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Carroll County

Georgia · Carrollton · FIPS 13045 · Population 120,060 ·
Crosodo Index #2661*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required;
complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	—	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

Carroll County, Georgia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Georgia label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

GEORGIA: CARROLL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2661* · FIPS 13045 · Carrollton

Carroll County

Population 120,060 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. No GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only). Interstate sales now allowed. Broad food list including baked goods, candies, condiments, preserves, carbonated drinks, etc. Carroll County follows state baseline.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Carroll County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Georgia HB 398 eliminated the prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning home occupation permits may still apply. Contact Carroll County Planning or Carrollton city planning for local zoning specifics.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025). No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. No GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only). Interstate sales now allowed. Broad food list including baked goods, candies, condiments, preserves, carbonated drinks, etc. Carroll County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water. Public water: standard requirements.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification recommended; state baseline does not mandate specific course for non-license pathway under HB 398.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025). No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Carroll County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Georgia HB 398 eliminated the prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning home occupation permits may still apply. Contact Carroll County Planning or Carrollton city planning for local zoning specifics.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. Broad channel allowances. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. The state_tier in input ('Okay') and state_baseline_citation reflect pre-July 2025 law. Post-HB 398, Georgia is one of the best states for cottage food. Carroll County includes Carrollton (pop ~30K) and is west of Atlanta metro. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.carrollcounty.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Carroll County	Douglas County	Coweta County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. Broad channel allowances. No sales cap.	Under HB 398: wholesale, retail, online, and direct sales all permitted. Delivery allowed. Interstate sales now permitted.	Under HB 398: wholesale, retail, online, and direct sales all permitted. Delivery allowed. Interstate sales now permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. No GDA licensing inspections (compla...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, ...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.
POPULATION	120,060	144,735	147,449

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

STATUTE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

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

Questions about Carroll 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/georgia/carroll-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 Carroll County, Georgia. 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/georgia/carroll-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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