

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cherokee County

Georgia · Canton · FIPS 13057 · Population 268,567 ·
Crosodo Index #2273*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Okay

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

Cherokee County, Georgia — 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

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply

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: CHEROKEE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2273* · FIPS 13057 · Canton

Cherokee County

Population 268,567 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certification (specific course) still required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Cherokee County may require home occupation permit under local zoning.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Cherokee County zoning (Canton area) may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Producers should check with Cherokee County Community Development Department. State law (HB 398) does not preempt local zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025); no routine inspections)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certification (specific course) still required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Cherokee County may require home occupation permit under local zoning.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source requires annual coliform testing (state rule)
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required; adequate handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 expansion broadened allowed foods significantly

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025); no routine inspections
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Cherokee County zoning (Canton area) may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Producers should check with Cherokee County Community Development Department. State law (HB 398) does not preempt local zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed (unusual for GA). Pre-July 2025: more restricted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Cherokee County Community Development zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398, effective July 1, 2025, dramatically expanded cottage food law (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) — no license required, complaint-based inspection only, much broader allowed foods, interstate sales now permitted. Cherokee County follows this state baseline with no county-specific overrides found. No direct Cherokee County .gov cottage food source retrieved. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cherokeega.com>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cherokee County	Forsyth County	Cobb County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed (un...	As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed.	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certificati...	As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification requi...	State baseline applies. As of HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required. ANSI-accredited food safety training (food handler level ac...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 expansion broadened allowed foods significantly	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 law significantly broadened allowed foods	Standard food storage practices
POPULATION	268,567	253,225	765,813

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Cherokee 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

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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 Cherokee 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/cherokee-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 Cherokee 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/cherokee-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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