

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Decatur County

Georgia · Bainbridge · FIPS 13087 · Population 29,391 ·  
Crosodo Index #2286\*

## 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)

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## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

**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

Decatur 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 in state law; products must not be contaminated**

### 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: DECATUR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2286\* · FIPS 13087 · Bainbridge

## Decatur County

Population 29,391 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&amp;R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Decatur County and the City of Bainbridge to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated                                                                                                                                      |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well                                                                                                                   |
| HANDWASHING                | Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required                                                                                                              |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence                                                                                                           |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.                                                                                                                                      |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Decatur County and the City of Bainbridge to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                   |

**Relevant county code**

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Decatur County, GA is a rural southwest Georgia county (not to be confused with DeKalb County's City of Decatur near Atlanta). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/decaturn-county>

<https://www.decaturncounty.gov>

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

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Decatur County                                                                                                                                 | Baker County                                                                                                                                   | Grady County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated                                                                                  | Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated                                                                                  | No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.                              |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all pe... | Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all pe... | Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; ... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify... | Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify... | Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence                                                       | Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence                                                       | All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.                                                         |
| POPULATION                 | 29,063                                                                                                                                         | 2,878                                                                                                                                          | 26,075                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Decatur 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.

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### 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.

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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](https://crosodo.com/states/georgia).

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### 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/>

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**Questions about Decatur 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/decaturn-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/decaturn-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 Decatur County, Georgia. 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/georgia/decaturn-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/decaturn-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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