

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

DeKalb County

Georgia · Decatur · FIPS 13089 · Population 761,209 ·
Crosodo Index #2267*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified; standard sanitation

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: DEKALB COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2267* · FIPS 13089 · Decatur

DeKalb County

Population 761,209 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (State baseline applies. HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. ANSI food safety training required. Private water supply requires annual coliform testing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (DeKalb County has an Occupational Tax Certificate requirement for home-based businesses. Contact DeKalb County Department of Revenue for Occupational Tax Certificate. Zoning compliance required through DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability. For businesses inside incorporated cities (Decatur, Dunwoody, Stone Mountain, etc.), contact that municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies. HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. ANSI food safety training required. Private water supply requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water or approved private supply; private well requires annual coliform testing
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation per food safety training
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — DeKalb County has an Occupational Tax Certificate requirement for home-based businesses. Contact DeKalb County Department of Revenue for Occupational Tax Certificate. Zoning compliance required through DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability. For businesses inside incorporated cities (Decatur, Dunwoody, Stone Mountain, etc.), contact that municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; DeKalb County Occupational Tax regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

DeKalb County follows Georgia state baseline. HB 398 (July 1, 2025) dramatically liberalized cottage food law. DeKalb County includes portions of Atlanta metro area. Occupational Tax Certificate likely required for home-based businesses. No DeKalb County-specific cottage food restriction beyond state baseline found. A Facebook post found noted questions about whether county business licenses are needed even after HB 398 removed state licensing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/board-of-health>

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/planning-sustainability>

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	DeKalb County	Gwinnett County	Fulton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified; standard sanitation	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap.	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap. Check local zoning for pic...	State law (eff. July 2025) allows interstate sales, wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales. No annual sales cap. Broad food catego...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. ANSI food safety training required....	Must use home kitchen. As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), no state license required. ANSI-accredited food safety training (food handler level acc...	Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded the cottage food law: no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices	Standard food storage practices required; no specific county overrides found	State baseline applies
POPULATION	761,209	957,977	1,061,944

State context — Georgia cottage food law

DeKalb 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 DeKalb 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/dekalb-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 DeKalb 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/dekalb-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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