

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Effingham County

Georgia · Springfield · FIPS 13103 · Population 65,314 ·
Crosodo Index #2735*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (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

Effingham 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

No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies

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: EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2735* · FIPS 13103 · Springfield

Effingham County

Population 65,314 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Effingham County is a fast-growing county near Savannah. No specific Effingham County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning at (912) 754-2105.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well)
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Effingham County is a fast-growing county near Savannah. No specific Effingham County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning at (912) 754-2105.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under new law

Relevant county code

Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. Effingham County is a suburban Savannah county experiencing rapid growth. No specific county-level cottage food restrictions found. State tier 'Okay' in input reflects pre-July 2025 law; current law is much more permissive.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.effinghamcounty.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/effingham-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Effingham County	Bulloch County	Chatham County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source. No specific pet restriction in current law.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed.	Since July 2025, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, and interstate sales are all allowed. Allowed foods greatly expanded by HB 39...	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail, online permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handle...	Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Since July 2025 (HB 398), no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only....	Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	Non-TCS shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	65,314	79,829	296,266

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Effingham 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 Effingham 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/effingham-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 Effingham 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/effingham-county-discuss

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