

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Forsyth County

Georgia · Cumming · FIPS 13117 · Population 253,225 ·
Crosodo Index #2317*

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

Forsyth 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 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: FORSYTH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2317* · FIPS 13117 · Cumming

Forsyth County

Population 253,225 · 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; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Forsyth 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 (Forsyth County Community Development may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Cumming city zoning may apply in incorporated areas. Check with Forsyth County Planning & Community Development.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025))

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Forsyth 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
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 law significantly broadened allowed foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Forsyth County Community Development may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Cumming city zoning may apply in incorporated areas. Check with Forsyth County Planning & Community Development.
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; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Forsyth County zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Forsyth County GA follows state baseline. Georgia HB 398 (July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No county-specific overrides found. Forsyth County is a fast-growing suburban Atlanta county. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.forsythco.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/forsyth-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Forsyth County	Cherokee County	Hall 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	No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.
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; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed.	As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed (un...	Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification requi...	As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certificati...	Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 law significantly broadened allowed foods	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 expansion broadened allowed foods significantly	Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.
POPULATION	253,225	268,567	204,953

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Forsyth 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 Forsyth 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/forsyth-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 Forsyth 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/forsyth-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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