

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gordon County

Georgia · Calhoun · FIPS 13129 · Population 57,785 · Crosodo Index #2755*

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

Gordon 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?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.

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: GORDON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2755* · FIPS 13129 · Calhoun

Gordon County

Population 57,785 · 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 (Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Broad list of permitted non-TCS foods. Food handler certification still required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Gordon County and City of Calhoun may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Gordon County Building and Zoning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (GDA may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection required under HB 398.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Broad list of permitted non-TCS foods. Food handler certification still required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well water).
HANDWASHING	No specific standalone handwashing mandate; food handler certification covers hygiene.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper shelf-stable storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection required under HB 398.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Gordon County and City of Calhoun may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Gordon County Building and Zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Very broad under HB 398: direct, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, interstate sales all permitted for non-TCS foods.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Gordon County zoning code (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) is a major expansion making Georgia one of the best cottage food states. The pre-HB-398 regulations (GA R&R 40-7-19) required a \$100/year license and GDA inspections — all now eliminated. Gordon County is in northwest Georgia near Dalton. Interstate sales are now uniquely allowed in Georgia. Private well users must conduct annual coliform testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.gordoncounty.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/gordon-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gordon County	Walker County	Floyd County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.	Not specified in state law	No specific restriction under current Georgia cottage food law (post-HB 398).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Very broad under HB 398: direct, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, interstate sales all permitted for non-TCS foods.	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted	Under post-July 2025 law, sales allowed at farmers markets, online, from home, to retail stores, restaurants, wholesale. Interstate sales n...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. In...	Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No registration required. Inspection upon complaint. Indirect sales al...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required (previously \$100/year). Complaint-bas...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper shelf-stable storage required.	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must prevent contamination.
POPULATION	57,785	68,065	98,541

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Gordon 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 Gordon 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/gordon-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 Gordon 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/gordon-county-discuss

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