

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lowndes County

Georgia · Valdosta · FIPS 13185 · Population 118,257 ·
Crosodo Index #2722*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required;
complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	—	MEDIUM	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

Lowndes 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

Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.

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: LOWNDES COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2722* · FIPS 13185 · Valdosta

Lowndes County

Population 118,257 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Lowndes County follows state baseline.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Lowndes County cottage food overlay found. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Lowndes County Planning and Zoning or Valdosta city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Lowndes County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
HANDWASHING	No mandatory specific course under HB 398 no-license pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Lowndes County cottage food overlay found. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Lowndes County Planning and Zoning or Valdosta city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. Input state_tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Lowndes County includes Valdosta (pop ~58K) near GA-FL border. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lowndescounty.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lowndes County	Berrien County	Brooks County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.	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...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Lo...	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...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence
POPULATION	118,257	18,187	16,275

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Lowndes 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 Lowndes 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/lowndes-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 Lowndes 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/lowndes-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise