

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Monroe County

Georgia · Forsyth · FIPS 13207 · Population 31,437 · Crosodo Index #2703\*

## 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

2026-05-06

**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

Monroe 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 state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.**

### 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: MONROE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2703\* · FIPS 13207 · Forsyth

## Monroe County

Population 31,437 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&amp;R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Monroe County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Monroe County's zoning ordinance.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| HANDWASHING                | Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| FOOD STORAGE               | All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.                                                                                                                             |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Monroe County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Monroe County's zoning ordinance. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                        |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.                                                                                  |

### Relevant county code

Monroe County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Monroe County Code of Ordinances

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Monroe County (GA)-specific cottage food code identified in research.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.monroecounty.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/monroe-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/monroe-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Monroe County                                                                                                                                  | Butts County                                                                                                                                   | Crawford County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.                              | 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          | Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; ... | 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     | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. ... | 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               | All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.                                                         | 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                 | 28,287                                                                                                                                         | 25,522                                                                                                                                         | 12,156                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Monroe 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.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STATUTE</b><br>O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b><br>—                      |
| <b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b><br>No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b><br>Yes (specific course) |
| <b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b><br>Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b><br>No                    |
| <b>INDIRECT SALES</b><br>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](https://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 Monroe 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/monroe-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/monroe-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Monroe County, Georgia. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/monroe-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/monroe-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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