

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Ware County

Georgia · Waycross · FIPS 13299 · Population 35,734 ·  
Crosodo Index #2229\*

## 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)

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## 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

Ware County, Georgia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Conditional**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint**

PETS

**No explicit pet restriction in Georgia  
HB 398 cottage food law.**

### 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: WARE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2229\* · FIPS 13299 · Waycross

## Ware County

Population 35,734 · 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 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Ware County is in unincorporated Georgia. Georgia HB 398 removed state licensing requirements effective July 1, 2025, but local zoning and home occupation rules may still apply. Check with Ware County Planning/Zoning for home occupation permit requirements.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Private water source requires annual coliform testing.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| HANDWASHING                | Food handler certification required, covering handwashing and hygiene.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.                                                                                                                                                         |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Ware County is in unincorporated Georgia. Georgia HB 398 removed state licensing requirements effective July 1, 2025, but local zoning and home occupation rules may still apply. Check with Ware County Planning/Zoning for home occupation permit requirements. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sales. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | No explicit employee cap in Georgia HB 398. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.                                         |

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 2025)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia state baseline applies with July 2025 HB 398 expansion. Mid-size county. Waycross is county seat (gateway to Okefenokee Swamp). No county-specific cottage food overrides documented.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://warecountyga.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/ware-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/ware-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Ware County                                                                                                                                    | Atkinson County                                                                                                                                | Bacon County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.                                                                                | 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 all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sa... | 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     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales ... | 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-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.                                                                                                      | 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                 | 35,734                                                                                                                                         | 8,265                                                                                                                                          | 11,138                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Ware 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](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 Ware 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/ware-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/ware-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 Ware 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/ware-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/ware-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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