

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Whitfield County

Georgia · Dalton · FIPS 13313 · Population 103,033 · Crosodo Index #2269*

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

Whitfield 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

No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices 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: WHITFIELD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2269* · FIPS 13313 · Dalton

Whitfield County

Population 103,033 · 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 (Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Whitfield County and the City of Dalton may have home occupation zoning requirements. Dalton is known as the 'Carpet Capital of the World.' No specific Whitfield County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

Private water source requires annual coliform testing.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food handler certification.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-potentially hazardous, non-TCS foods only. Perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies prohibited.

Inspection & permitting**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Whitfield County and the City of Dalton may have home occupation zoning requirements. Dalton is known as the 'Carpet Capital of the World.' No specific Whitfield County cottage food ordinance identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Interstate and in-state sales permitted. Wholesale, retail, online, and direct-to-consumer sales all allowed under the 2025 law. Restaurant sales also permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Whitfield County code section identified. State law governs: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Whitfield County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Georgia's 2025 HB 398 dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.whitfieldcounty.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/whitfield-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Whitfield County	Walker County	Catoosa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply.	Not specified in state law	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Interstate and in-state sales permitted. Wholesale, retail, online, and direct-to-consumer sales all allowed under the 2025 law. Restaurant...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification ...	Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No registration required. Inspection upon complaint. Indirect sales al...	Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No registration required. Inspection upon complaint. Indirect sales al...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, non-TCS foods only. Perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies prohibited.	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products
POPULATION	103,033	68,065	68,052

State context — Georgia cottage food law

Whitfield 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 Whitfield 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/whitfield-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 Whitfield 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/whitfield-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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