

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Caldwell County

North Carolina · Lenoir · FIPS 37027 · Population 80,716 ·
Crosodo Index #2276*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	—	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

Caldwell County, North Carolina — 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under North Carolina 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
- ☐ North Carolina home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[North Carolina label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

NORTH CAROLINA: CALDWELL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2276* · FIPS 37027 · Lenoir

Caldwell County

Population 80,716 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify applicant. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products. Well water must be tested. Annual re-inspection required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (NCDA&CS Step 4 requires checking with local planning/zoning. Caldwell County Planning Department and City of Lenoir zoning should be consulted.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Initial inspection 8-12 weeks after application.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify applicant. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products. Well water must be tested. Annual re-inspection required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.

WATER SUPPLY

Public water: current bill required. Private well: coliform and E. coli test within one year by certified agency.

HANDWASHING

Kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection.

FOOD STORAGE

Detailed storage plan required. All storage areas inspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Initial inspection 8-12 weeks after application.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — NCDA&CS Step 4 requires checking with local planning/zoning. Caldwell County Planning Department and City of Lenoir zoning should be consulted.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Conditional

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Must be identified in business plan.

Relevant county code

No Caldwell County-specific cottage food code identified. State 02 NCAC 9C.0307 governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Caldwell County (Lenoir, in the Blue Ridge foothills) follows NC Home Processor program rules. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.caldwellcounty.gov>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/food-drug-food-program-home-processor>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Caldwell County	Burke County	Wilkes County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from the NC Home Processor program entirely
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.	Same as all NC counties: sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspect...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify appli...	Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify a...	NC requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements (2...
FOOD STORAGE	Detailed storage plan required. All storage areas inspected.	Detailed storage plan required with application. All storage areas inspected.	Shelf-stable foods only; proper storage away from contaminants
POPULATION	80,716	87,799	66,125

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Caldwell County's rules sit on top of North Carolina's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
02 NCAC 9C.0307	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	No
INDIRECT SALES	

Yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **North Carolina cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

Questions about Caldwell 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/north-carolina/caldwell-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 Caldwell County, North Carolina. 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/north-carolina/caldwell-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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