

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cleveland County

North Carolina · Shelby · FIPS 37045 · Population 99,527 ·
Crosodo Index #1762*

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

Cleveland 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?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.

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: CLEVELAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1762* · FIPS 37045 · Shelby

Cleveland County

Population 99,527 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Cleveland County and the City of Shelby may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cleveland County cottage food ordinance identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation, but sanitation reviewed during annual kitchen inspection.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing required; verified during annual inspection.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, seafood, bottled water/juice, bakery products with cream or cream cheese fillings or cheesecakes.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Cleveland County and the City of Shelby may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cleveland County cottage food ordinance identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Cleveland County code section identified. State law governs: 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cleveland County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Cleveland County is in the Piedmont foothills near the South Carolina border. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.clevelandcounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cleveland County	Lincoln County	Burke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from operating a home-based food business under NC Home Processor program. This i...	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. No interstate sales.	Same as all NC counties: sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspect...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted inc...	North Carolina requires a home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) disqualify the applicant entire...	Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify a...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s...	Storage plan for supplies, equipment, and finished product must be provided with application. Areas where materials, ingredients, and equip...	Detailed storage plan required with application. All storage areas inspected.
POPULATION	99,527	87,933	87,799

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Cleveland 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 Cleveland 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/cleveland-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 Cleveland 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/cleveland-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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