

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cumberland County

North Carolina · Fayetteville · FIPS 37051 · Population
335,207 · Crosodo Index #1803*

STATE BASELINE

02 NCAC 9C.0307; home kitchen inspection required before operating; no sales cap; direct and indirect sales; no food handler cert required at state level

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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

Cumberland 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

No pets or animals permitted in the home at any time under 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: CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1803* · FIPS 37051 · Fayetteville

Cumberland County

Population 335,207 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307; home kitchen inspection required before operating; no sales cap; direct and indirect sales; no food handler cert required at state level ·

MEDIUM**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Home kitchen inspection required before operating; no pets/animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate building); business plan and labeling required before inspection; well water must be tested)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No pets or animals permitted in the home at any time under NC home processor program

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (NC NCAGR requires operators to check local planning/zoning before applying. Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville may require home occupation permit. Operator must verify with local planning department per NCAGR Step 4 guidance)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required before operating; subsequent complaint-based inspections possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Home kitchen inspection required before operating; no pets/animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate building); business plan and labeling required before inspection; well water must be tested
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets or animals permitted in the home at any time under NC home processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water or tested well water (coliform test required for well water)
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required before operating; subsequent complaint-based inspections possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — NC NCAGR requires operators to check local planning/zoning before applying. Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville may require home occupation permit. Operator must verify with local planning department per NCAGR Step 4 guidance
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

NC has a notably burdensome startup process (home inspection required, business plan, zoning check). Pet prohibition is strict. No Cumberland County-specific overlay beyond state rules found. Fayetteville is large military-adjacent city.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cumberlandcountync.gov>

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/north-carolina/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cumberland County	Harnett County	Robeson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets or animals permitted in the home at any time under NC home processor program	No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. This is a complete pet prohibition, not limited to producti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC	Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC — home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores.	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants allowed). No sales cap. Products must be shelf-stable. No onlin...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Home kitchen inspection required before operating; no pets/animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate ...	Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated o...	North Carolina requires an annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant (full prohibition, not ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions	Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH or water activity testing. Refrigerated/frozen products prohibited.
POPULATION	335,207	134,718	117,573

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Cumberland 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 Cumberland 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/cumberland-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 Cumberland 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/cumberland-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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