

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gaston County

North Carolina · Gastonia · FIPS 37071 · Population 228,972 ·
Crosodo Index #2862*

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

Gaston County, North Carolina — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

**No pets allowed in home at any time —
presence of any pet disqualifies
applicant**

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: GASTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2862* · FIPS 37071 · Gastonia

Gaston County

Population 228,972 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling. Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with Gaston County Planning for home occupation permit.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Gaston County is listed as 'pattern' — no county URLs. NC home processor application requires checking with local planning/zoning department. Check with Gaston County Planning Department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling. Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with Gaston County Planning for home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing; sanitary kitchen per GMP inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Gaston County is listed as 'pattern' — no county URLs. NC home processor application requires checking with local planning/zoning department. Check with Gaston County Planning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed after annual inspection. Gastonia city limits have municipal zoning.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation restrictions may apply

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 9C.0307; Gaston County Planning zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Gaston County NC is listed as 'pattern' with no county URLs. Follows NC state baseline. Annual inspection and pet prohibition apply. No Gaston County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.gastoncounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gaston County	Mecklenburg County	Cleveland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant	No pets in the home at any time (state/federal GMP rule disqualifying condition).	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed after annual inspection. Gastonia city limits have municipal zoning.	Indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants allowed within NC. No sales cap.	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies by city	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling...	Mecklenburg County follows NC state baseline: home processors regulated by NCDA&CS, requiring annual kitchen inspection. Mecklenburg County...	North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted inc...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	State baseline applies	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s...
POPULATION	228,972	1,115,403	99,527

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Gaston 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 02 NCAC 9C.0307	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY 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 Gaston 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/gaston-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 Gaston 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/gaston-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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