

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Harnett County

North Carolina · Lillington · FIPS 37085 · Population 134,718 ·  
Crosodo Index #2452\*

| 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

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

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

### STATE SALES CAP

—

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

### INSPECTION

**Yes**

### PETS

**No pets allowed in the home — any pets 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: HARNETT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2452\* · FIPS 37085 · Lillington

## Harnett County

Population 134,718 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Harnett County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. Lillington and other municipalities have separate ordinances. No specific county-level cottage food override identified.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.                                                                         |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required.                                                                                                                                                     |
| HANDWASHING                | Required per NCDA&CS inspection standards.                                                                                                                                  |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.                                                                                                        |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required.                                                                                                                                                       |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Harnett County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. Lillington and other municipalities have separate ordinances. No specific county-level cottage food override identified. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                     |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                             |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC — home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified.                                                                                                          |

## Relevant county code

Not identified for Harnett County; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

### RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (NC) confirmed. Harnett County is a growing county south of the Research Triangle. No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.harnettcounty.gov>

<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/harnett-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/harnett-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Harnett County                                                                                                                                 | Moore County                                                                                                                                   | Johnston County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.                                            | PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 1... | Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements (21 CF... |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC — home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores.                        | Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.          | NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. No internet-sale prohibition at state level. Verify l... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated o... | 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 all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.                                                                           | Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s... | Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas inspected.            |
| POPULATION                 | 134,718                                                                                                                                        | 100,759                                                                                                                                        | 219,042                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Harnett 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<br>02 NCAC 9C.0307                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ANNUAL SALES CAP<br>—   |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED<br>Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | FOOD HANDLER CERT<br>No |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION<br>Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | DIRECT SALES ONLY<br>No |
| INDIRECT SALES<br>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](https://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 Harnett 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/harnett-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/harnett-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Harnett County, North Carolina. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/harnett-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/harnett-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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