

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lenoir County

North Carolina · Kinston · FIPS 37107 · Population 55,071 ·
Crosodo Index #2554*

STATE BASELINE

02 NCAC 9C .0307 (NC Home Processor Program)

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This is one of the strictest pet rules in the nation.

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: LENOIR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2554* · FIPS 37107 · Kinston

Lenoir County

Population 55,071 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C .0307 (NC Home Processor Program) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk non-refrigerated foods including baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely. No refrigerated or frozen products.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This is one of the strictest pet rules in the nation.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (NCDA&CS home processor registration required (annual fee; annual kitchen inspection). No separate Lenoir County-specific permit identified. Contact NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection for home processor program.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required for all home processor registrations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk non-refrigerated foods including baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely. No refrigerated or frozen products.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This is one of the strictest pet rules in the nation.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific private water testing requirement identified beyond standard sanitation.

HANDWASHING

Covered under annual inspection requirements.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required for all home processor registrations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — NCDA&CS home processor registration required (annual fee; annual kitchen inspection). No separate Lenoir County-specific permit identified. Contact NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection for home processor program.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales (retail, wholesale) permitted. Online sales and shipping within NC allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in NC rules.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; no Lenoir County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Lenoir County (Kinston) is in eastern North Carolina. NC has one of the strictest home processor programs: annual inspection required and pets in the home disqualify the applicant. No county-specific rules found. State NCDA&CS URL for home processor program was updated in research. The state cottage food URL in input references an older URL path.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lenoircounty.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/lenoir-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lenoir County	Duplin County	Craven County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This ...	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — disqualifies applicant from program.	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 1...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales (retail, wholesale) permitted. Online sales and shipping within NC allowed.	Products may be sold at retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, and directly to consumers.	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	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk non-refrigerated foods including baked goods, ...	Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpa...	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, non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/ non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s...
POPULATION	55,071	49,312	101,098

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Lenoir 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 Lenoir 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/lenoir-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 Lenoir 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/lenoir-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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