

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Onslow County

North Carolina · Jacksonville · FIPS 37133 · Population
203,686 · Crosodo Index #1816*

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

Onslow 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 are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.

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: ONSLOW COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1816* · FIPS 37133 · Jacksonville

Onslow County

Population 203,686 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be in the home (not a separate building/garage/basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Onslow County (Jacksonville area, Camp Lejeune) applicants must verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (NC home processor program requires verification with local county/city planning that a food business is permitted at the residence. Onslow County Planning and Jacksonville City may require a home occupation permit. Contact Onslow County Planning or City of Jacksonville Planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection arranged by NCDA&CS 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspection required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be in the home (not a separate building/garage/basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Onslow County (Jacksonville area, Camp Lejeune) applicants must verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.

WATER SUPPLY

Public water: attach current bill. Non-public/well water: coliform test required within one year of application.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial kitchen inspection.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products only. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas included in inspection.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial inspection arranged by NCDA&CS 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspection required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — NC home processor program requires verification with local county/city planning that a food business is permitted at the residence. Onslow County Planning and Jacksonville City may require a home occupation permit. Contact Onslow County Planning or City of Jacksonville Planning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Verify local zoning for home pickup.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit statutory employee cap; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; Onslow County zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina state baseline applies. Onslow County (county seat: Jacksonville) is home to Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. NC home processor program administered at state level; local zoning verification required as part of application.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.onslowcounty.gov>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-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/onslow-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Onslow County	Carteret County	Pender County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.	Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subp...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Verify local zoning for home pickup.	Direct-to-consumer sales; no wholesale or retail resale	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permit...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...	Home processor registration required with NC Dept of Agriculture. Initial kitchen inspection required. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Shel...	NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products only. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas included in inspection.	Shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.
POPULATION	203,686	68,353	61,592

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Onslow 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 Onslow 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/onslow-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 Onslow 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/onslow-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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