

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Robeson County

North Carolina · Lumberton · FIPS 37155 · Population 117,573
· Crosodo Index #2421*

STATE BASELINE

02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required;
no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list

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

Robeson 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

Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. This is a complete pet prohibition, not limited to production areas.

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: ROBESON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2421* · FIPS 37155 · Lumberton

Robeson County

Population 117,573 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required; no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (North Carolina requires an annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant (full prohibition, not just during production). Registration required with NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. This is a complete pet prohibition, not limited to production areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Robeson County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. North Carolina NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. County and local municipality zoning may require home occupation permits separately. Contact Robeson County Planning or Lumberton city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required to maintain registration.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — North Carolina requires an annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant (full prohibition, not just during production). Registration required with NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. This is a complete pet prohibition, not limited to production areas.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required and assessed at annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH or water activity testing. Refrigerated/frozen products prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required to maintain registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Robeson County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. North Carolina NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. County and local municipality zoning may require home occupation permits separately. Contact Robeson County Planning or Lumberton city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants allowed). No sales cap. Products must be shelf-stable. No online shipping outside NC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (NC tier Good). NC's most distinctive feature is annual kitchen inspection and complete pet prohibition. Robeson County is one of NC's largest counties by area, with significant Native American (Lumbee Tribe) population. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.robesoncounty.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/robeson-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Robeson County	Cumberland County	Hoke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. This is a complete pet prohibition, not limited to producti...	No pets or animals permitted in the home at any time under NC home processor program	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time during operation — presence of any indoor pet disqualifies the applicant from the home p...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants allowed). No sales cap. Products must be shelf-stable. No onlin...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC	Products may be sold directly to consumers. Allowed sales channels include retail stores, restaurants (if produced lawfully), and direct-to...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires an annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant (full prohibition, not ...	Home kitchen inspection required before operating; no pets/animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate ...	Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time (GMP violation). Kitchen must meet ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH or water activity testing. Refrigerated/frozen products prohibited.	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted. Equipment and supplies must be stored inside the dwelling.
POPULATION	117,573	335,207	52,612

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Robeson 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 Robeson 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/robesson-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 Robeson 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/robesson-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise