

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Rockingham County

North Carolina · Wentworth · FIPS 37157 · Population 91,209
· Crosodo Index #2503*

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

Rockingham 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

**ANY pet animals in the home
DISQUALIFY the applicant from
obtaining a NC home processor permit.**

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: ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2503* · FIPS 37157 · Wentworth

Rockingham County

Population 91,209 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 09C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (North Carolina home processor program (02 NCAC 09C .0307) requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams/jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). CRITICAL: ANY pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

ANY pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from obtaining a NC home processor permit.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Rockingham County (Wentworth) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Rockingham County-specific cottage food permit beyond state home processor registration identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Registration required.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — North Carolina home processor program (02 NCAC 09C .0307) requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams/jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). CRITICAL: ANY pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

ANY pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from obtaining a NC home processor permit.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water supply requirement stated beyond standard kitchen safety.

HANDWASHING

Annual kitchen inspection covers food safety practices.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only; no frozen, dairy, seafood, or cream-filled pastries.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Registration required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Rockingham County (Wentworth) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Rockingham County-specific cottage food permit beyond state home processor registration identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales (NC allows wholesale). Farmers markets, events, home, retail stores permitted. Must be registered with NCDA&CS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in NC home processor rules.

Relevant county code

No Rockingham County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Rockingham County-specific cottage food rules found. Rockingham County (Wentworth) is in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. NC annual inspection requirement and no-pets rule are distinctive features.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.rockinghamcounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Rockingham County	Alamance County	Forsyth County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	ANY pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from obtaining a NC home processor permit.	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales (NC allows wholesale). Farmers markets, events, home, retail stores permitted. Must be registered with NCDA&CS.	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina home processor program (02 NCAC 09C .0307) requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. No sales cap. Allowed:...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foo...	North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allow...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only; no frozen, dairy, seafood, or cream-filled pastries.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.
POPULATION	91,209	171,779	383,739

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Rockingham 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 Rockingham 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/rockingham-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 Rockingham 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/rockingham-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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