

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Wilkes County

North Carolina · Wilkesboro · FIPS 37193 · Population 66,125 ·
Crosodo Index #2741*

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

Wilkes 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from the NC Home Processor program entirely

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: WILKES COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2741* · FIPS 37193 · Wilkesboro

Wilkes County

Population 66,125 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (NC requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from the NC Home Processor program entirely

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (County seat is Wilkesboro; no specific Wilkes County home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Local zoning ordinance may apply. Contact Wilkes County Planning at (336) 651-7350.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS before permit issuance and annually thereafter)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — NC requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from the NC Home Processor program entirely
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required separate from food preparation
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; proper storage away from contaminants

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS before permit issuance and annually thereafter
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — County seat is Wilkesboro; no specific Wilkes County home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Local zoning ordinance may apply. Contact Wilkes County Planning at (336) 651-7350.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated at county level; state rules govern production

Relevant county code

Not identified; contact Wilkes County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Home Processor program requires annual NCDA&CS inspection, which is the key distinguishing feature. No sales cap. Pets in home disqualify applicants. No specific Wilkes County health or planning overrides identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.wilkescounty.gov>

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

<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>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Wilkes County	Surry County	Caldwell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from the NC Home Processor program entirely	Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable	Direct-to-consumer sales; no wholesale or retail resale	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	NC requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements (2...	Home processor registration required with NC Dept of Agriculture. Initial kitchen inspection required. No sales cap. Shelf-stable, low-risk...	Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify appli...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; proper storage away from contaminants	Products must be shelf-stable; appropriate storage required	Detailed storage plan required. All storage areas inspected.
POPULATION	66,125	71,429	80,716

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Wilkes 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 Wilkes 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/wilkes-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 Wilkes 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/wilkes-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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