

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Beaufort County

South Carolina · Beaufort · FIPS 45013 · Population 189,071 ·
Crosodo Index #1936*

STATE BASELINE

S.C. Code §44-1-145

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

Beaufort County, South 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under South 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
- ☐ South Carolina home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[South Carolina label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

SOUTH CAROLINA: BEAUFORT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1936* · FIPS 45013 · Beaufort

Beaufort County

Population 189,071 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be primary domestic residence kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Beaufort County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses as an accessory use in residential zones (county ordinances). Separate Minor and Major home occupation categories exist; Major requires special exception approval. A business license is also required. County zoning standards: no external signage beyond minor nameplate, no on-site employees beyond household members for Minor; limited customer visits. City of Beaufort has its own home occupation application (Section 3.3.2.D, fee \$30) distinct from county rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine kitchen inspection. State Department of Agriculture may inspect upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Must be primary domestic residence kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water from municipal or approved source.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities required per food safety standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Products stored in clean, dry conditions; no refrigeration required for permitted non-PHF foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — No routine kitchen inspection. State Department of Agriculture may inspect upon complaint.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — Beaufort County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses as an accessory use in residential zones (county ordinances). Separate Minor and Major home occupation categories exist; Major requires special exception approval. A business license is also required. County zoning standards: no external signage beyond minor nameplate, no on-site employees beyond household members for Minor; limited customer visits. City of Beaufort has its own home occupation application (Section 3.3.2.D, fee \$30) distinct from county rules.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales allowed at home (limited customer visits), online, farmers markets, and retail stores (since 2022 amendment). Mail order and online with delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Household members only for Minor home occupation; Major may allow limited non-resident employees with special exception.

Relevant county code

Beaufort County Zoning Ordinance, Home Occupation provisions; S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap. Beaufort County requires home occupation permit and business license per CityRuleLookup verified information. County prohibits external business signage for home occupations. City of Beaufort has its own zoning ordinance (Section 3.3.2.D) requiring conditional use permit for home occupations. SC Cottage Food Law cited as §44-1-142 in some local sources (may reflect prior version numbering). Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Department of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/beaufort-county-sc>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales allowed at home (limited customer visits), online, farmers markets, and retail stores (since 2022 amendment). Mail...	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geog...	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geog...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must be primary domestic residence kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from...	South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or insp...	South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or insp...
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored in clean, dry conditions; no refrigeration required for permitted non-PHF foods.	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.
POPULATION	189,071	38,892	19,222

State context — South Carolina cottage food law

Beaufort County's rules sit on top of South Carolina's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

S.C. Code §44-1-145

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — Since the 2022 amendment, home-based food operations may sell to retail stores and grocery stores in addition to direct-to-consumer sales including online and mail order. Retail stores that sell home-based food products must post clearly visible signage indicating the products are not subject to commercial food regulations.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [South Carolina cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/south-carolina.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/south-carolina/>

Questions about Beaufort 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/south-carolina/beaufort-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 Beaufort County, South 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/south-carolina/beaufort-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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