

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hanover County

Virginia · Hanover · FIPS 51085 · Population 110,513 · Crosodo
Index #967*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130; no stated dollar cap for standard cottage foods; \$9,000 cap for pickles/acidified vegetables; no registration; no inspection; direct sales only; non-TCS shelf-stable foods

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	Tiered	HIGH	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

Hanover County, Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Virginia label one-pager →](#)

[Print labels for your first market →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

VIRGINIA: HANOVER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #967* · FIPS 51085 · Hanover

Hanover County

Population 110,513 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130; no stated dollar cap for standard cottage foods; \$9,000 cap for pickles/acidified vegetables; no registration; no inspection; direct sales only; non-TCS shelf-stable foods · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection. Direct sales only. All-caps label required: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Hanover County home-based businesses are subject to zoning with home occupation provisions under §26-279.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Hanover County home-based businesses are regulated under §26-279 of the Hanover County Zoning Ordinance. Home occupations in main buildings and accessory buildings/home craft shops are addressed under this section. Some home businesses may require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Per Hanover County FAQ: 'Some home businesses require a special permit.' Contact Hanover County Planning at hanovercounty.gov for whether cottage food qualifies as permitted by-right or requires CUP.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Virginia §3.2-5130: Department may inspect upon consumer complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection. Direct sales only. All-caps label required: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Hanover County home-based businesses are subject to zoning with home occupation provisions under §26-279.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under Virginia cottage food law.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Pickles/acidified vegetables with pH ≤4.6 allowed but with \$9,000/year cap.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Virginia §3.2-5130: Department may inspect upon consumer complaint. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Hanover County home-based businesses are regulated under §26-279 of the Hanover County Zoning Ordinance. Home occupations in main buildings and accessory buildings/home craft shops are addressed under this section. Some home businesses may require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Per Hanover County FAQ: 'Some home businesses require a special permit.' Contact Hanover County Planning at hanovercounty.gov for whether cottage food qualifies as permitted by-right or requires CUP.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia allows direct sales only: home, farmers markets, events, online (no resale). Customer pickup permitted subject to Hanover County home occupation conditions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Hanover County home occupation zoning §26-279 specifies limits; details not retrieved. Contact Hanover County Planning for specifics.

Relevant county code

Hanover County Zoning Ordinance §26-279 (Home Occupations); Va. Code §3.2-5130

RESEARCH NOTES

County-specific data confirmed from official Hanover County government website (hanovercounty.gov). Zoning ordinance §26-279 confirmed to govern home occupations including home craft shops and retail sales conducted as a home occupation. Home businesses may require CUP in some cases per official FAQ. Virginia's distinctive all-caps label requirement and \$9,000 pickle cap are state baseline features. Hanover County is a northern Richmond suburb, fast-growing. Confidence high: both state law and county zoning requirements confirmed from official .gov and secondary sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hanovercounty.gov>

<https://www.hanovercounty.gov>

<https://www.hanovercounty.gov/m/FAQ>

<https://engage.hanovercounty.gov/w26672>

https://www.zoneomics.com/code/hanover-county-unincorporated-VA/chapter_3

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

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

Hanover County and nearby places

Regulation	Hanover County	Spotsylvania County	Louisa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Virginia allows direct sales only: home, farmers markets, events, online (no resale). Customer pickup permitted subject to Hanover County h...	Direct sales only per state law. Sales from home, at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (local delivery), and similar venues. No resa...	Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Likely
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection. Direct sales only. All-caps label required: 'NOT FOR...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at...	Virginia Home Kitchen Food Processing Exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) permits direct-to-consumer sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a p...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Pickles/acidified vegetables with pH ≤4.6 allowed but with \$9,000/year cap.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products only. Products stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	110,513	141,097	38,106

State context — Virginia cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Va. Code §3.2-5130 (HB 402 / 2026 c. 605)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — As amended by HB 402 (Acts of Assembly 2026 Ch. 605), effective July 1, 2026: exempt foods may be sold at any location, through the internet, or by phone to an individual in Virginia for their own consumption, and delivered in person, by mail, or by delivery service in Virginia. Still no resale, consignment, restaurants, retail food establishments, or out-of-state sales. Local zoning still applies. The VDACS home-food-processor FAQ PDF is stale (still says no online sales); the statute controls. <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/2026/HB402>

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title3.2/chapter51/section3.2-5130/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/virginia/>

Questions about Hanover 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/virginia/hanover-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 Hanover County, Virginia. 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/virginia/hanover-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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