

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Georgia

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19.

STATUTE

TIER

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 **Okay**

IJ GRADE

COUNTIES COVERED

LAST VERIFIED

**D+****80****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.

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## Executive summary

This report covers the Georgia cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 80 Georgia counties included in this dataset.

**ANNUAL SALES CAP**

none

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

no

**FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION**

yes (specific course)

**KITCHEN INSPECTION**

upon-complaint

**DIRECT SALES ONLY**

no

**INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)**

yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

MAJOR 2025 UPDATE: Georgia HB 398 became effective July 1, 2025, dramatically expanding the cottage food law and making it one of the best in the country. Key changes: no license or fee required (previously \$100/year), no GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only), interstate sales now allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed, and a much broader list of permitted foods. The Crosodo input fields (tier 'Okay', ij\_grade 'D+', registration\_url for license) reflect the pre-July 2025 state of the law and should be updated to reflect the new regime. The excerpt provided is from the pre-HB-398 regulations (GA R&R 40-7-19), which is the best available verbatim official text; the new O.C.G.A. sections (26-2-470 to 26-2-478) were not accessible for direct scraping but their content is corroborated by the GDA announcement and Forrager. Private water testing (annual coliform) is still required if using a private water source.

# Georgia Code O.C.G.A. §§26-2-470 through 26-2-478 (enacted by HB 398, 2025); formerly Georgia Rules and Regulations Chapter 40-7-19 (Cottage Food Regulations)

**CITATION**

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**ENACTED**

2012

**LAST AMENDED**

2025

**CONFIDENCE**

HIGH

## Allowed foods

Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food, including baked goods, candies, condiments (mustards, nut butters, oils, pickles, syrups, vinegars), dry goods, pastries, preserves, snacks, and carbonated drinks. Georgia also allows interstate sales of cottage food products, which is rare among states.

## Prohibited foods

Prohibited items include perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies. All TCS (time/temperature control for safety) foods requiring refrigeration are not permitted.

## Labeling requirements

Labels must include the business name, address or GDA-issued identification number, phone number, and the statement 'This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state inspection. This product may contain allergens.' in at least 10-point type. Operators may obtain a GDA identifier in lieu of a home address.

## Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

### Statute excerpt — verbatim

Rule 40-7-19-.01 Purpose: The purpose of this Chapter is to allow individuals using home kitchens to prepare, manufacture, and sell non-potentially hazardous foods to the public. Rule 40-7-19-.02 Definitions: (3) 'Cottage food operator' means a person who produces cottage food products only in the home kitchen of that person's primary domestic residence and only for sale directly to the consumer. (4) 'Cottage food products' means non-potentially hazardous baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, and other non-potentially hazardous foods produced in the home kitchen of a domestic residence. (11) 'Home kitchen' means a kitchen primarily intended for use by the residents of a home. It may contain one or more stoves or ovens, which may be a double oven, designed for residential use. It must not include commercial types of equipment. Rule 40-7-19-.05 Cottage Food Limitations: (1) May only produce non-potentially hazardous foods. Examples include: (a) Loaf breads, rolls, and biscuits; (b) Cakes (except those that require refrigeration due to cream cheese icing, fillings, or high moisture content such as tres leche); (c) Pastries and cookies; (d) Candies and confections; (e) Fruit pies; (f) Jams, jellies, and preserves; (g) Dried fruits; (h) Dry herbs, seasonings and mixtures; (i) Cereals, trail mixes, and granola; (j) Coated or uncoated nuts; (k) Vinegar and flavored vinegars; (l) Popcorn, popcorn balls, and cotton candy.

Source: <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

## Official sources

**Statute** <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

**State dept page** <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

**Registration** <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-license>

**Extension service** <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1418>

**Forrager.com** <https://forrager.com/law/georgia/>

State dept of agriculture / health: **Georgia Department of Agriculture**

## County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 80 Georgia counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 43 · FIPS 13121 · —

## Fulton County

Population 1,061,944 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded the cottage food law: no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed. Fulton County follows the state baseline. No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	Private water sources require annual coliform testing (state rule). Municipal water: state baseline applies.
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under new HB 398 framework (effective July 2025). GDA has no routine inspection authority for cottage food.
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**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** conditional — No Georgia state requirement for a home occupation permit for cottage food. Fulton County cities (Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Roswell, etc.) may have their own home occupation requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies by city

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** yes

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** State law (eff. July 2025) allows interstate sales, wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales. No annual sales cap. Broad food categories allowed.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** state baseline applies

### Relevant county code

none county-specific found; O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. applies

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Fulton County (Atlanta area) benefits from Georgia's major 2025 expansion (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) which made Georgia one of the most permissive cottage food states. The prior tier of 'Okay' and \$100,000 registration requirement are now replaced by a no-fee, no-license framework. Interstate sales are now allowed — unusual nationally. A food safety course is recommended by GDA for operators. Private water users must conduct annual coliform tests.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.fultoncountyga.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 53 · FIPS 13135 · Lawrenceville

# Gwinnett County

Population 957,977 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must use home kitchen. As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), no state license required. ANSI-accredited food safety training (food handler level acceptable) is required. Private water supply requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water or approved private supply; private well requires annual coliform testing per GDA guidance
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation required per food safety training
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices required; no specific county overrides found

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Gwinnett County requires an Occupational Tax Certificate (business license) for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas, via the Licensing and Revenue Office. A Home-Based Business Disclosure agreement is required. Driver's license address must match business address. Food sales must be licensed by Georgia Department of Environmental Health or Georgia Department of Agriculture (for cottage food, GDA identification number registration available). If inside a city within Gwinnett County, contact that municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap. Check local zoning for pickup/delivery restrictions.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

Gwinnett County Business License/Occupational Tax Code; O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Gwinnett County's business license page confirms home-based businesses require an Occupational Tax Certificate, Home-Based Business Disclosure, and driver's license matching the business address. The GDA cottage food page confirms HB 398 (July 1, 2025) removed the state licensing requirement for cottage food but food safety training remains required. No specific Gwinnett County ordinance restricting cottage food beyond state baseline was found, but the business license/occupational tax requirement applies. For businesses inside incorporated cities in Gwinnett (e.g., Duluth, Suwanee, Lawrenceville), separate municipal rules apply.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.gov/health>

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.gov/planning>

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.com>

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/government/departments/planning-development/services/business-license>

<https://www.agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 83 · FIPS 13067 · Marietta

## Cobb County

Population 765,813 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — State baseline applies. As of HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required. ANSI-accredited food safety training (food handler level acceptable) required. Annual coliform testing for private water supply.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water or approved private supply; private well requires annual coliform testing
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation per food safety training
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Cobb County has an Occupational Tax Certificate requirement for home-based businesses. Contact Cobb County Business License Division. Cobb County Community Development handles zoning. For businesses inside incorporated cities (Marietta, Smyrna, Powder Springs, etc.), contact that municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Cobb County Business License/Occupational Tax regulations

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Cobb County follows Georgia state baseline. HB 398 (July 1, 2025) significantly liberalized Georgia cottage food law — no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. Cobb County likely requires an Occupational Tax Certificate for home-based businesses. No specific Cobb County ordinance restricting cottage food beyond state baseline was found. The county has both unincorporated areas and several incorporated cities.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cobbcounty.gov/health>

<https://www.cobbcounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.cobbcounty.org>

<https://www.agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 84 · FIPS 13089 · Decatur

## DeKalb County

Population 761,209 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — State baseline applies. HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. ANSI food safety training required. Private water supply requires annual coliform testing.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified; standard sanitation

**WATER SUPPLY**    Municipal water or approved private supply; private well requires annual coliform testing

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation per food safety training

**FOOD STORAGE**    Standard food storage practices

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**    conditional — DeKalb County has an Occupational Tax Certificate requirement for home-based businesses. Contact DeKalb County Department of Revenue for Occupational Tax Certificate. Zoning compliance required through DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability. For businesses inside incorporated cities (Decatur, Dunwoody, Stone Mountain, etc.), contact that municipality.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**    yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; DeKalb County Occupational Tax regulations

**RESEARCH NOTES**

DeKalb County follows Georgia state baseline. HB 398 (July 1, 2025) dramatically liberalized cottage food law. DeKalb County includes portions of Atlanta metro area. Occupational Tax Certificate likely required for home-based businesses. No DeKalb County-specific cottage food restriction beyond state baseline found. A Facebook post found noted questions about whether county business licenses are needed even after HB 398 removed state licensing.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/board-of-health>

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/planning-sustainability>

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov>

<https://www.agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 233 · FIPS 13063 · Jonesboro

## Clayton County

Population 296,312 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); food handler certificate required; no license or inspection required; no sales cap; indirect sales allowed · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license or inspection required; labeling required; as of July 2025, expanded to almost any non-PHF food
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GA Dept of Agriculture may investigate complaints
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — GA does not preempt local zoning. Clayton County and municipalities (Jonesboro, Forest Park, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local planning department
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, retail stores, online permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

### Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**  
 GA expanded cottage food law effective July 2025 (HB 398). Clayton County is Atlanta metro suburb. No county-specific overlay found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**  
<https://www.claytoncountyga.gov>  
<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

# Chatham County

Population 296,266 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); food handler certificate required; no license or inspection required; no sales cap; indirect sales allowed · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GA Dept of Agriculture complaint-based
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — GA does not preempt local zoning. Chatham County and City of Savannah may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail, online permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Same GA baseline as Clayton County. Chatham County includes Savannah — tourist destination with active local food scene. No county-specific overlay found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.chathamcountyga.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 258 · FIPS 13057 · Canton

## Cherokee County

Population 268,567 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; inspection complaint-based only; broad food list allowed. Food handler certification (specific course) still required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Cherokee County may require home occupation permit under local zoning.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water source requires annual coliform testing (state rule)
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler certification required; adequate handwashing
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 expansion broadened allowed foods significantly

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025); no routine inspections
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	conditional — Cherokee County zoning (Canton area) may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Producers should check with Cherokee County Community Development Department. State law (HB 398) does not preempt local zoning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed (unusual for GA). Pre-July 2025: more restricted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Cherokee County Community Development zoning

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Georgia HB 398, effective July 1, 2025, dramatically expanded cottage food law (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) — no license required, complaint-based inspection only, much broader allowed foods, interstate sales now permitted. Cherokee County follows this state baseline with no county-specific overrides found. No direct Cherokee County .gov cottage food source retrieved. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.cherokeega.com>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 272 · FIPS 13117 · Cumming

## Forsyth County

Population 253,225 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Forsyth County may require home occupation permit under local zoning.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source requires annual coliform testing (state rule)
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 law significantly broadened allowed foods

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Forsyth County Community Development may require home occupation permit for residential-zone food businesses. Cumming city zoning may apply in incorporated areas. Check with Forsyth County Planning & Community Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of July 2025: direct and indirect sales; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted; interstate sales allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Forsyth County zoning

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Forsyth County GA follows state baseline. Georgia HB 398 (July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No county-specific overrides found. Forsyth County is a fast-growing suburban Atlanta county. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.forsythco.com>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 280 · FIPS 13151 · McDonough

## Henry County

Population 240,853 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspection only; broad food list. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Henry County may require home occupation permit under local zoning. No county URLs provided in input.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified at county level; state GMP principles apply
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source requires annual coliform testing (state rule)
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; July 2025 law broadened allowed foods

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only as of HB 398 (eff. July 2025)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Henry County may require home occupation permit. No county URLs provided — check with Henry County Development Authority or Henry County Planning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of July 2025: all sales channels allowed; interstate sales permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; Henry County zoning

### RESEARCH NOTES

Henry County GA follows Georgia state baseline. HB 398 (July 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No county URLs provided in input and no county-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 328 · FIPS 13245 · Augusta

## Richmond County

Population 206,153 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law: no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Richmond County is a consolidated city-county (Augusta-Richmond County); Augusta has its own local governance but state preemption applies to cottage food.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law. Standard food safety practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water source requires annual coliform testing under Georgia cottage food rules.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler certification required, which covers handwashing and hygiene standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS (non-potentially hazardous) foods only. Standard GMP storage practices.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025): complaint-based inspection only; no routine or pre-operational inspections required.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	conditional — Augusta-Richmond County (consolidated city-county) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Augusta-Richmond County Planning & Development Department ( <a href="http://augustaga.gov">augustaga.gov</a> ) for home occupation permit requirements for food businesses. Georgia HB 398 removed state-level licensing/inspection requirements but local zoning still applies.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels: direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, and wholesalers. Interstate sales permitted (rare nationally). Home pickup and delivery allowed.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	No explicit employee cap in Georgia HB 398. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 2025); Augusta-Richmond County zoning ordinances

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) fundamentally changed Georgia's cottage food landscape — now one of the most permissive nationally. The state baseline notes this was a MAJOR 2025 UPDATE. Richmond County is a consolidated city-county government (Augusta-Richmond County since 1996). Georgia also now allows interstate sales, which is rare nationally. The state baseline's 'Okay' tier and 'D+' IJ grade reflect the pre-July 2025 state of law; post-July 2025 should be rated much higher.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.augustaga.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

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RANK 329 · FIPS 13139 · Gainesville

## Hall County

Population 204,953 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Hall County (county seat: Gainesville) is a growing suburban/exurban county northeast of Atlanta.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler certification required, covering handwashing and hygiene.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	conditional — Hall County and municipalities (Gainesville, Oakwood, Flowery Branch) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Hall County Planning & Zoning or relevant municipal planning office. Georgia HB 398 removed state licensing requirements but local zoning still applies.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sales.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** No explicit employee cap in Georgia HB 398. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 2025); Hall County zoning ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Georgia state baseline applies with the July 2025 HB 398 expansion. Hall County (county seat: Gainesville) is in northeast Georgia, a fast-growing county in the Atlanta metro area. No county-specific URLs provided. No Hall County-specific cottage food overrides documented.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 331 · FIPS 13215 · Columbus

## Muscogee County

Population 204,572 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

- HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. Muscogee County is a consolidated city-county (Columbus-Muscogee County); Columbus is a major city.
- SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no
- PET RESTRICTIONS** No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.
- WATER SUPPLY** Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
- HANDWASHING** Food handler certification required, covering handwashing and hygiene.
- FOOD STORAGE** Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Muscogee County is a consolidated city-county government (Columbus-Muscogee). The Columbus Georgia city-county government (columbusga.gov) handles zoning and may require home occupation permits for food businesses. Contact Columbus Planning Department for current requirements. Georgia HB 398 removed state licensing but local zoning still applies.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Georgia HB 398. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 2025); Columbus-Muscogee County zoning ordinances

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia state baseline applies with July 2025 HB 398 expansion. Muscogee County is a consolidated city-county government with Columbus as the main city — also near Fort Benning/Fort Moore (major military installation). No county-specific overrides documented. Georgia HB 398 significantly improved Georgia's cottage food framework, making it one of the best nationally.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.columbusga.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

# Paulding County

Population 169,898 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required, no GDA inspections (complaint-based only), interstate sales now allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using private water source. Food safety training required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit state restriction under new law; complaint-based inspections may address food safety concerns.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Annual coliform testing required if using private water source.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food safety training covers handwashing requirements.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous foods stored appropriately.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Complaint-based inspections only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine GDA inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	conditional — Georgia's new cottage food law (HB 398, eff. July 2025) dramatically expanded allowances. Paulding County may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses under county zoning. County URLs were blank in input. Dallas city has separate municipal zoning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	No sales channel restrictions under HB 398 — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted. Interstate sales now allowed (rare nationally).
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	No state restriction specified under new law.

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; no specific Paulding County code found.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Major 2025 update: Georgia HB 398 effective July 1, 2025 dramatically expanded the cottage food law. The Crosodo input fields (tier 'Okay', ij\_grade 'D+') reflect the pre-July 2025 state of the law. Under the new law Georgia allows interstate sales, wholesale/retail/restaurant sales, and has eliminated licensing requirements. Paulding County is a rapidly growing suburban county northwest of Atlanta. County URLs were blank in input. Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using private water source.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 402 · FIPS 13153 · Perry

## Houston County

Population 164,117 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.'
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Houston County requires a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Houston County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

## Relevant county code

Houston County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Houston County Code of Ordinances

### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. No county URL provided in input; no Houston County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 425 · FIPS 13073 · Applying

# Columbia County

Population 156,921 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform testing.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	varies — Columbia County may require a business license and home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	yes

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. Interstate sales now permitted.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

## Relevant county code

Columbia County Zoning Ordinance; O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 2025) governs. No Columbia County-specific cottage food code identified.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 427 · FIPS 13021 · Macon

## Bibb County

Population 156,554 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **HIGH**

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform testing.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.

## Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**      yes — Macon-Bibb County requires an Occupation Tax Certificate (business license) for any business operating in the county. A Certificate of Zoning Compliance is required before a business license is issued. Home occupations in Macon-Bibb are governed by Section 23.01.04 of the Comprehensive Land Development Resolution — must be conducted solely by occupants, max 25% of gross floor area, no visible evidence to average neighbor, only one additional vehicle at a time, owner or tenant with written owner approval required. Zoning compliance applications submitted via Camino portal.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**      yes

**Customer-facing rules**

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP**      conditional

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE**      no

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES**      Under Georgia HB 398: wholesale, retail, online, and direct sales all permitted. Customer traffic to home occupation limited to one additional vehicle at a time under Macon-Bibb zoning rules.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME**      Home occupation must be conducted solely by occupants of the residence under Macon-Bibb zoning (Section 23.01.04). No outside employees or jobbers may meet or congregate at the residence.

**Relevant county code**

Macon-Bibb Comprehensive Land Development Resolution §23.01.04 (Home Occupations); O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Verified-large county with specific Macon-Bibb home occupation code confirmed. Macon-Bibb County Section 23.01.04 home occupation rules found: must be conducted solely by occupants, no external evidence, max 25% floor area, max 1 additional vehicle, no outside storage. Occupation Tax Certificate (business license) required. Zoning compliance required before business license. Signage prohibited for home occupations under standard rules. Cottage food food list restaurants/bars not listed as prohibited home occupations. Planning & Zoning Commission: 478-241-2554; applications via Camino portal.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://mbpz.org/>

<https://www.maconbibb.us>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

[https://mbpz.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Chapter\\_23\\_\\_SUPPLEMENTARY\\_REGULATIONS\\_USES-4-17-23-DRAFT.pdf](https://mbpz.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Chapter_23__SUPPLEMENTARY_REGULATIONS_USES-4-17-23-DRAFT.pdf)

<https://www.maconbibb.us/businesslicenseprocess/>

RANK 446 · FIPS 13077 · Newnan

## Coweta County

Population 147,449 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Coweta County may require a business license and home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398: wholesale, retail, online, and direct sales all permitted. Delivery allowed. Interstate sales now permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Coweta County Zoning Ordinance; O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 2025) governs. No Coweta County-specific cottage food code identified.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 450 · FIPS 13097 · Douglasville

## Douglas County

Population 144,735 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform testing.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practices apply.

**WATER SUPPLY** Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.

**HANDWASHING** Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.

**FOOD STORAGE** Non-TCS foods only; proper storage to prevent contamination.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Douglas County may require a business license and home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398: wholesale, retail, online, and direct sales all permitted. Delivery allowed. Interstate sales now permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Douglas County Zoning Ordinance; O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 2025) governs. No Douglas County-specific cottage food code identified.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 495 · FIPS 13059 · Athens

# Clarke County

Population 128,864 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **HIGH**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Since July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required, no GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only), interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed. Broad permitted foods list. Food handler certification still recommended but not required by new law. A Home Occupation Permit (\$20) is required from Athens-Clarke County Planning Department before obtaining a business occupation tax certificate.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform test) still required if using a private water source.
WATER SUPPLY	If using private water source: annual coliform testing required per GA R&R 40-7-19 (still applicable post-HB 398).
HANDWASHING	Required per food safety good practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods. Stored in food-safe containers.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon complaint (complaint-based only per HB 398, 2025).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Athens-Clarke County requires a Home Occupation Permit (\$20 fee) before a business may operate from a home. The permit is required under Section 9-15-16 of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Development Code. Key restrictions: (1) Direct sales on premises generally not permitted, except for services customarily incidental (mail order and online sales are allowable); (2) No external display of products; (3) No signs on property advertising the home occupation; (4) Maximum one non-resident employee; (5) Business must occupy no more than 25% of habitable floor space; (6) No chemicals or equipment beyond normal domestic residence. Note: Section 9-15-16(L) explicitly states 'No food service regulated by the Department of Health shall be permitted' — cottage food operators using the GDA framework should consult ACC Planning to confirm applicability post-HB 398.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	ACC Home Occupation rules restrict direct on-premises sales (see above). Mail order and online sales are explicitly allowed. Post-HB 398 (2025), Georgia state law broadly permits all sales channels; however, ACC Home Occupation restrictions on direct customer traffic and on-premises sales may limit home pickup for cottage food operations.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Maximum one non-resident employee permitted under ACC Home Occupation rules (Section 9-15-16(C)).

### Relevant county code

Athens-Clarke County Unified Development Code, Section 9-15-16 (Home Occupations); O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Athens-Clarke County Home Occupation Application (PDF, Revised February 2026) retrieved directly via Exa search from athensclarkecounty.com. Key finding: Section 9-15-16(L) states 'No food service regulated by the Department of Health shall be permitted' as a home occupation — this may create tension with cottage food operations if they are classified as food service by the Department of Health, though HB 398 (2025) removed the GDA licensing requirement. The \$20 Home Occupation permit is required before obtaining a Business Occupation Tax certificate. ACC Home Business Permits page (accgov.com) also confirmed. County govt URL confirmed. ACC is a consolidated city-county government. High confidence for local zoning rules based on official ACC documents found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.accgov.com/151/Planning-Department>

<https://www.clarkecounty.gov>

<http://athensclarkecounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/125>

<https://www.accgov.com/841/Home-Business-Permits>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://www.clarkecounty.gov>

RANK 518 · FIPS 13045 · Carrollton

## Carroll County

Population 120,060 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. No GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only). Interstate sales now allowed. Broad food list including baked goods, candies, condiments, preserves, carbonated drinks, etc. Carroll County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform) still required if using a private water source.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water. Public water: standard requirements.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification recommended; state baseline does not mandate specific course for non-license pathway under HB 398.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025). No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Carroll County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Georgia HB 398 eliminated the prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning home occupation permits may still apply. Contact Carroll County Planning or Carrollton city planning for local zoning specifics.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. Broad channel allowances. No sales cap.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

IMPORTANT: Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. The state\_tier in input ('Okay') and state\_baseline\_citation reflect pre-July 2025 law. Post-HB 398, Georgia is one of the best states for cottage food. Carroll County includes Carrollton (pop ~30K) and is west of Atlanta metro. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 521 · FIPS 13113 · Fayetteville

## Fayette County

Population 119,259 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Fayette County (Atlanta suburb) follows state baseline.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.

**WATER SUPPLY** Annual coliform testing required if using private well water. Public water: standard requirements.

**HANDWASHING** No mandatory specific course requirement under HB 398 no-license pathway.

**FOOD STORAGE** Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** varies — No specific Fayette County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Fayette County zoning may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Contact Fayette County Planning and Zoning or Fayetteville city planning.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. The input state\_tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Fayette County is a wealthy Atlanta suburb. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 524 · FIPS 13185 · Valdosta

# Lowndes County

Population 118,257 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Lowndes County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
HANDWASHING	No mandatory specific course under HB 398 no-license pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Lowndes County cottage food overlay found. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Lowndes County Planning and Zoning or Valdosta city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. Input state\_tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Lowndes County includes Valdosta (pop ~58K) near GA-FL border. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 537 · FIPS 13217 · Covington

## Newton County

Population 113,298 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398); no sales cap; no license required; complaint-based inspection; broad food list; interstate sales now allowed ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required. Complaint-based only. Newton County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using private well water.
HANDWASHING	No mandatory specific course under HB 398 no-license pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products. No perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, or meat jerkies.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per Georgia HB 398. No routine inspections.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — No specific Newton County cottage food overlay found. Georgia HB 398 eliminated prior GDA license requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Newton County Planning and Zoning or Covington city planning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Georgia HB 398 allows wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales and interstate sales. No sales cap.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. Input state\_tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Newton County is part of Atlanta metro (Covington known as 'Hollywood of the South' for film production). No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 553 · FIPS 13015 · Cartersville

# Bartow County

Population 109,410 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply. If using private water source, annual coliform water testing required.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food handler certification.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, non-TCS foods only. Perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies prohibited.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. No routine inspections required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Bartow County and the City of Cartersville may have home occupation zoning requirements. Georgia state law (HB 398, 2025) eliminated the GDA licensing requirement for cottage food, but local zoning and home occupation rules may still apply. No Bartow County-specific cottage food ordinance was identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Interstate and in-state sales permitted. Wholesale, retail, online, and direct-to-consumer sales all allowed under the 2025 law. Restaurant sales also permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Bartow County code section identified. State law governs: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Bartow County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Major 2025 update: Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food — no license, no fee, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant permitted. The input tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law. Current law is among the best in the country. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 584 · FIPS 13313 · Dalton

## Whitfield County

Population 103,033 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply.

**WATER SUPPLY** Private water source requires annual coliform testing.

**HANDWASHING** Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food handler certification.

**FOOD STORAGE** Non-potentially hazardous, non-TCS foods only. Perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies prohibited.

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** conditional — Whitfield County and the City of Dalton may have home occupation zoning requirements. Dalton is known as the 'Carpet Capital of the World.' No specific Whitfield County cottage food ordinance identified.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Interstate and in-state sales permitted. Wholesale, retail, online, and direct-to-consumer sales all allowed under the 2025 law. Restaurant sales also permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Whitfield County code section identified. State law governs: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Whitfield County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Georgia's 2025 HB 398 dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 608 · FIPS 13115 · Rome

# Floyd County

Population 98,541 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee required (previously \$100/year). Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Broad list of permitted non-TCS foods. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific restriction under current Georgia cottage food law (post-HB 398).
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler training required (specific course); no specific statutory handwashing mandate beyond training.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must prevent contamination.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Georgia Department of Agriculture may inspect upon consumer complaint under §26-2-470 et seq.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	varies — Floyd County and City of Rome may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Floyd County-specific cottage food permit identified. Georgia state law does not expressly preempt local zoning for cottage food; operators should verify with Floyd County Planning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Under post-July 2025 law, sales allowed at farmers markets, online, from home, to retail stores, restaurants, wholesale. Interstate sales now expressly allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No limit specified in current Georgia cottage food law.

### Relevant county code

No Floyd County-specific cottage food code section identified.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No Floyd County-specific cottage food rules found. Georgia's HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) is a major update: removed licensing fees, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, broader food list, and retail/wholesale/online now permitted. Data source tier 'Okay' reflects pre-July 2025 law; current law is substantially more permissive. Operators should consult GDA at [agr.georgia.gov](http://agr.georgia.gov) for current guidance under the new §26-2-470 et seq.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 615 · FIPS 13297 · Monroe

## Walton County

Population 97,752 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed, broad non-TCS food list. Food handler training required. Annual coliform test if private water source.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under current Georgia cottage food law (post-HB 398).
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source.
HANDWASHING	Food handler training required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Georgia Department of Agriculture inspects only upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Walton County (Monroe) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Walton County-specific cottage food permit identified. Operators should check with Walton County Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed at farmers markets, online, from home, retail stores, restaurants, wholesale. Interstate sales expressly allowed under post-July 2025 law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in current Georgia cottage food law.

## Relevant county code

No Walton County-specific cottage food code identified.

### RESEARCH NOTES

No Walton County-specific cottage food rules found. Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) significantly expanded cottage food law. Walton County is a fast-growing exurb of Atlanta. State tier 'Okay' in input data reflects pre-July 2025 law; current Georgia law is substantially more permissive.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

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RANK 633 · FIPS 13247 · Conyers

# Rockdale County

Population 93,641 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025): no license or fee, complaint-based inspection only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed. Food handler training required. Annual coliform test if private water source. Non-TCS foods broadly permitted.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific restriction under current Georgia cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Annual coliform testing if using private water source.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler training required.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Georgia Department of Agriculture inspects only upon consumer complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	varies — Rockdale County (Conyers, Atlanta metro) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Rockdale County-specific cottage food permit identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Under post-July 2025 law: farmers markets, online, from home, retail stores, restaurants, wholesale all permitted. Interstate sales expressly allowed.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	No limit specified in current Georgia cottage food law.

## Relevant county code

No Rockdale County-specific cottage food code identified.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No Rockdale County-specific cottage food rules found. Rockdale County is a small county in the Atlanta metro area. Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) is a major expansion. State tier 'Okay' in input data reflects pre-July 2025 law.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 669 · FIPS 13095 · Albany

## Dougherty County

Population 85,038 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad range of non-PHF foods allowed including baked goods, candies, condiments, pickles, syrups, etc.; interstate sales now allowed; wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now permitted. Food handler certification still required. If using private water source, annual coliform testing required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in revised law; general sanitation expected.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food handler hygiene requirements from certification training.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety practices.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Under HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025), inspections are complaint-based only. No routine pre-operational inspection required.
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**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** varies — Dougherty County and the City of Albany may have home occupation ordinances. No Dougherty County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Dougherty County Planning and Development or City of Albany planning office.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Since July 2025: direct and indirect sales permitted including wholesale, retail, online, restaurants, and interstate. All channels now open under HB 398.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified in state law under new HB 398 framework.

### Relevant county code

No Dougherty County-specific cottage food code identified. O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. governs.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Dougherty County (Albany) follows Georgia's cottage food law. Georgia underwent a major expansion in July 2025 via HB 398. The GDA cottage food page and Forrager confirm the new framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from GDA and Justia sources; Dougherty County-specific zoning not verified.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 671 · FIPS 13127 · Brunswick

# Glynn County

Population 84,566 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Same as all Georgia counties under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad non-PHF food types allowed; food handler certification required; interstate and indirect sales now permitted. Annual coliform test if private water source.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in revised law.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
HANDWASHING	Standard food handler hygiene from certification.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Glynn County and the City of Brunswick (Golden Isles area) may have home occupation ordinances. No Glynn County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. Glynn County Community Development should be consulted.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All channels now open under Georgia HB 398: direct, indirect, retail, wholesale, online, restaurant sales, and interstate.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in new Georgia law.

## Relevant county code

No Glynn County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Glynn County is a coastal Georgia county (Brunswick/Jekyll Island/St. Simons area). Follows the new HB 398 Georgia cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 674 · FIPS 13013 · Winder

# Barrow County

Population 84,399 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Same as all Georgia counties under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad non-PHF food types allowed; food handler certification required; interstate and indirect sales now permitted. Annual coliform test if private water source.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in revised law.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
HANDWASHING	Standard food handler hygiene from certification.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Barrow County (growing suburb of Atlanta) and the City of Winder may have home occupation ordinances. No specific Barrow County cottage food ordinance identified. Barrow County Planning and Development should be consulted.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All channels open under HB 398: direct, indirect, retail, wholesale, online, restaurant, interstate.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in new Georgia law.

## Relevant county code

No Barrow County-specific cottage food code identified.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Barrow County is in the Atlanta metro area (I-85 corridor). Follows the new HB 398 Georgia cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 705 · FIPS 13031 · Statesboro

## Bulloch County

Population 79,829 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Since July 2025 (HB 398), no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Must operate from home kitchen.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source. No specific pet restriction in current law.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required. Private well users must conduct annual coliform testing.

HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required (specific course). Proper handwashing is part of food safety training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025), no GDA licensing inspections; complaint-based only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — HB 398 removed the prior \$100/year GDA license requirement. No state-level permit required. Local zoning home occupation permits may still apply in Bulloch County. No Bulloch County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Since July 2025, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, and interstate sales are all allowed. Allowed foods greatly expanded by HB 398.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in the current law.

### Relevant county code

No Bulloch County-specific cottage food code section found.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded the cottage food law: no license/fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online permitted, much broader allowed foods. No Bulloch County-specific overrides found. Private well users must conduct annual coliform testing per prior GDA requirements. Confidence: medium (state law transition verified via state baseline, no Bulloch County-specific ordinance confirmed).

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

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# Jackson County

Population 77,033 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Since July 2025 (HB 398), no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Expanded food list includes almost all non-TCS foods plus interstate sales.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required. Private well users must conduct annual coliform testing.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required (specific course).
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025), complaint-based only; no GDA licensing inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — HB 398 removed the prior \$100/year GDA license. No state-level permit required. Jackson County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Jackson County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Since July 2025, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, and interstate sales all allowed. Broad allowed food list under HB 398.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in current law.

## Relevant county code

No Jackson County-specific cottage food code section found.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Jackson County follows Georgia state cottage food law as dramatically expanded by HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025). No county-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 769 · FIPS 13285 · LaGrange

## Troup County

Population 69,527 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No state registration required. Inspection upon complaint only. Indirect sales allowed. No TCS foods. Note: New statutory framework effective July 2025.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food handler certification
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Troup County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of LaGrange has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia Okay-tier state. New statutory framework (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) effective July 2025 expanded cottage food allowances. No county-specific sources available. County seat listed as LaGrange (input showed blank). Pattern county.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 778 · FIPS 13295 · LaFayette

## Walker County

Population 68,065 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No registration required. Inspection upon complaint. Indirect sales allowed. Non-TCS foods. New statutory framework effective July 2025.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food handler certification
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Walker County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of LaFayette has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

### Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Georgia Okay-tier state. Walker County is in NW Georgia near Chattanooga TN border. New statutory framework effective July 2025. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 779 · FIPS 13047 · Ringgold

## Catoosa County

Population 68,052 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No registration required. Inspection upon complaint. Indirect sales allowed. Non-TCS foods. New statutory framework effective July 2025.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food handler certification
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Catoosa County is a suburban county adjacent to Chattanooga, TN. Unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Ringgold has its own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

### Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Georgia Okay-tier state. Catoosa County is a suburban Atlanta exurb immediately south of Chattanooga, TN. New statutory framework effective July 2025. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

# Spalding County

Population 67,415 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Food handler certification (specific course) required. No sales cap. No registration required. Inspection upon complaint. Indirect sales allowed. Non-TCS foods. New statutory framework effective July 2025.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food handler certification
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Spalding County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Griffin has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia Okay-tier state. Spalding County is south of Atlanta metro. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

RANK 813 · FIPS 13179 · Hinesville

# Liberty County

Population 65,550 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well)
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Liberty County includes Hinesville (which has Fort Stewart military presence). No specific Liberty County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Liberty County Planning & Zoning or Hinesville for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales all permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed under new law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under new law

## Relevant county code

Contact Liberty County Planning or Hinesville City for local zoning

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. No license or fee; complaint-based inspections; interstate sales allowed; broader food list. Liberty County is home to Ft. Stewart military base and Hinesville. The state tier 'Okay' in input reflects pre-July 2025 law; current law is much more permissive. No Liberty County-specific restrictions found.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 817 · FIPS 13103 · Springfield

## Effingham County

Population 65,314 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handler certification required. Private water source (well) requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well)

HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (2025); no routine inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Effingham County is a fast-growing county near Savannah. No specific Effingham County cottage food home occupation permit identified. Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning at (912) 754-2105.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under new law

### Relevant county code

Contact Effingham County Planning & Zoning for local zoning

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law. Effingham County is a suburban Savannah county experiencing rapid growth. No specific county-level cottage food restrictions found. State tier 'Okay' in input reflects pre-July 2025 law; current law is much more permissive.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

## Gordon County

Population 57,785 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales now allowed. Broad list of permitted non-TCS foods. Food handler certification still required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform testing required if using a private water source (well water).
HANDWASHING	No specific standalone handwashing mandate; food handler certification covers hygiene.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; proper shelf-stable storage required.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection required under HB 398.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Gordon County and City of Calhoun may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Gordon County Building and Zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Very broad under HB 398: direct, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, interstate sales all permitted for non-TCS foods.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

## Relevant county code

Gordon County zoning code (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) is a major expansion making Georgia one of the best cottage food states. The pre-HB-398 regulations (GA R&R 40-7-19) required a \$100/year license and GDA inspections — all now eliminated. Gordon County is in northwest Georgia near Dalton. Interstate sales are now uniquely allowed in Georgia. Private well users must conduct annual coliform testing.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 921 · FIPS 13039 · Woodbine

## Camden County

Population 55,105 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 1, 2025, HB 398) · **MEDIUM**

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad allowed foods including most non-TCS items; interstate sales allowed; retail/wholesale/online/restaurant sales allowed. Food handler certification recommended. Private water testing required annually if using private well.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	no
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific GA or Camden County restriction. Private water annual coliform test required if on private well.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Annual coliform test required if using private water source.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler certification recommended but not required under new HB 398 framework.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods. Perishable foods and low-acid canned goods prohibited.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA complaint-based investigation only; no routine inspections under HB 398.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Camden County is adjacent to Kings Bay Naval Base and includes Woodbine (county seat) and Kingsland. No specific Camden County cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Camden County Government in Woodbine for home occupation zoning requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted. Retail, wholesale, online, restaurant sales all allowed since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed (unusual nationally).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in GA HB 398.

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; no Camden County-specific ordinance identified

### RESEARCH NOTES

Camden County is in coastal southeast Georgia near the Florida border. The 2025 HB 398 dramatically expanded GA cottage food law effective July 1, 2025 — no license, no fee, no cap, interstate sales allowed. No county-specific rules found. State GDA baseline applies. Prior 'Okay' tier and restrictions reflect the pre-July 2025 law.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

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RANK 995 · FIPS 13175 · Dublin

# Laurens County

Population 49,407 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

**MEDIUM**

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspection only. Almost any non-potentially hazardous food allowed including most condiments, pickles, syrups, vinegars, salsas, etc. Interstate sales now allowed. Private well water requires annual coliform testing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in current state cottage food law (HB 398).
WATER SUPPLY	Annual coliform water testing required if using a private water source.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no specific requirement under new law.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — No routine inspection under HB 398 (effective July 2025). Complaint-based inspection only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — No specific Laurens County cottage food ordinances found. City of Dublin and Laurens County may have local home occupation permit requirements. Recommend verifying with Laurens County Planning/Zoning and City of Dublin.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398: online sales, wholesale/retail/restaurant/direct-to-consumer sales all allowed. Interstate sales allowed (unusual). No GDA licensing inspection.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; HB 398 (2025); Laurens County/Dublin zoning codes

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food law — no license/fee, interstate sales allowed, much broader food list, complaint-based inspection only. This is a significant improvement from the previous 'Okay' tier. Private well water testing (annual coliform) still required. Laurens County is in central Georgia. No county-specific rules found.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13001 · Baxley

## Appling County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted. Production limited to the home kitchen area of the primary residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence; no commercial storage facilities

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon receipt of a consumer complaint, foodborne illness outbreak, or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law (O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.) does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Appling County and the City of Baxley to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. GDA registration form previously required operators to confirm local compliance; under HB 398 (no state license required) local zoning still applies.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. No wholesale distribution through intermediaries. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) removed state licensing requirement, expanded allowed foods to almost any non-potentially hazardous food, allowed retail/restaurant/online/interstate sales, and made inspections complaint-based only. Appling County is a small rural south Georgia county; no county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Operators must still verify local zoning in Appling County and Baxley for home occupation compliance. ANSI-accredited food safety training (Food Handler level acceptable) is still required under state law. Defaulted to GA state baseline with medium confidence.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/appling-county>

<https://www.applingcounty.org>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13003 · Pearson

## Atkinson County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon receipt of a consumer complaint, foodborne illness outbreak, or public health emergency.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**    conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Atkinson County and the City of Pearson to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**    varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. No wholesale distribution through intermediaries. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Atkinson County is a very small, rural south Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398, July 2025) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/atkinson-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13005 · Alma

## Bacon County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Bacon County and the City of Alma to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Bacon County is a small rural south Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/bacon-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

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RANK 9999 · FIPS 13007 · Newton

## Baker County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**    conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Baker County to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**    varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP**    yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE**    conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Baker County is one of Georgia's smallest and most rural counties in southwest Georgia. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/baker-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13009 · Milledgeville

## Baldwin County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING** Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE** Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Baldwin County and the City of Milledgeville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district. Milledgeville as a college town (Georgia College & State University) may have specific home occupation provisions in its land use code.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Baldwin County seat is Milledgeville, home to Georgia College & State University. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found in available sources. Local zoning verification is especially important in Milledgeville given the urban/college-town context. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/baldwin-county>

<https://www.baldwincountyga.com>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13011 · Homer

## Banks County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Banks County and the Town of Homer to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Banks County is a small rural northeast Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/banks-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13017 · Fitzgerald

## Ben Hill County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING** Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE** Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Ben Hill County is a small rural south Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/ben-hill-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13019 · Nashville

# Berrien County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Berrien County and the City of Nashville, GA to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Berrien County is a small rural south Georgia county (county seat Nashville, GA — not Tennessee). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/berrien-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13023 · Cochran

## Bleckley County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Bleckley County and the City of Cochran to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Bleckley County is a small rural central Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/bleckley-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13025 · Nahunta

# Brantley County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Brantley County to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Brantley County is a small rural southeast Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/brantley-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13027 · Quitman

## Brooks County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Brooks County and the City of Quitman to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Brooks County is a small rural south Georgia county near the Florida state line. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/brooks-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

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RANK 9999 · FIPS 13029 · Pembroke

# Bryan County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Bryan County and the City of Pembroke to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. Bryan County is a fast-growing county near Savannah; local zoning may be more developed than typical rural counties.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Bryan County is a growing suburban county adjacent to Savannah in southeast Georgia. Its growth may mean more formalized zoning rules for home occupations compared to more rural counties. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found in available sources. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/bryan-county>

<https://www.bryancountyga.org>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13033 · Waynesboro

## Burke County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Burke County and the City of Waynesboro to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Burke County is a rural east Georgia county near Augusta. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/burke-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13035 · Jackson

## Butts County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Butts County and the City of Jackson, GA to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Butts County is a small rural central Georgia county. County seat is Jackson, GA (not Jackson, MS). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/butts-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13037 · Morgan

## Calhoun County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING** Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE** Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Calhoun County to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Calhoun County is one of Georgia's least populous counties in southwest Georgia. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/calhoun-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13043 · Metter

# Candler County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Candler County and the City of Metter to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Candler County is a small rural east Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/candler-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13049 · Folkston

## Charlton County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Charlton County and the City of Folkston to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME unknown

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

RESEARCH NOTES

Charlton County is a rural southeast Georgia county adjacent to Okefenokee Swamp. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://dph.georgia.gov/charlton-county

https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food

https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13053 · Cusseta

# Chattahoochee County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Chattahoochee County to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning) is located in Chattahoochee County; operators on military installation land should confirm applicable rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Chattahoochee County contains Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), a major Army installation. This makes it unusual — operators on military installation property are subject to federal/DoD rules rather than local county zoning. For off-base residents, standard GA cottage food rules apply. County is very small. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/chattahoochee-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13055 · Summerville

## Chattooga County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING** Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE** Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Chattooga County and the City of Summerville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Chattooga County is a rural northwest Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/chattooga-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13061 · Fort Gaines

# Clay County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Clay County to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Clay County is one of Georgia's least populous counties in southwest Georgia. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/clay-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13065 · Homerville

## Clinch County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Clinch County and the City of Homerville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Clinch County is a small rural south Georgia county near the Florida state line. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/clinch-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

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RANK 9999 · FIPS 13069 · Douglas

# Coffee County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Coffee County and the City of Douglas to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Coffee County is a rural south Georgia county with Douglas as the county seat. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/coffee-county>

<https://www.coffeecountyga.com>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13071 · Moultrie

## Colquitt County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Colquitt County and the City of Moultrie to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Colquitt County is a mid-sized rural south Georgia county known for agriculture. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/colquitt-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13075 · Adel

# Cook County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Cook County and the City of Adel to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Cook County is a small rural south Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/cook-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13079 · Knoxville

## Crawford County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING** Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE** Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED** upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT** conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Crawford County to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE** varies

### Customer-facing rules

**ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP** yes

**ON-SITE SIGNAGE** conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Crawford County is a small rural central Georgia county (county seat Knoxville, GA — not Tennessee). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/crawford-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13081 · Cordele

# Crisp County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Crisp County and the City of Cordele to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Crisp County is a rural south Georgia county. Cordele is known as the 'Watermelon Capital of the World.' No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/crisp-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13083 · Trenton

## Dade County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**    yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**    no

**PET RESTRICTIONS**    Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY**    Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING**    Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE**    Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**    upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Dade County and the City of Trenton to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME unknown

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

RESEARCH NOTES
Dade County is a small rural county in the extreme northwest corner of Georgia (the input listed no county seat; Trenton is the county seat). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- https://dph.georgia.gov/dade-county
https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food
https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13085 · Dawsonville

# Dawson County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Dawson County and the City of Dawsonville to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required. Dawson County has experienced significant residential growth as a bedroom community of Atlanta.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Dawson County is a fast-growing north Georgia county in the Blue Ridge foothills, known as a NASCAR heritage site and growing Atlanta exurb. Its growth means more formalized zoning rules for home occupations. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found in available sources. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/dawson-county>

<https://www.dawsoncounty.org>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13087 · Bainbridge

## Decatur County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Decatur County and the City of Bainbridge to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Decatur County, GA is a rural southwest Georgia county (not to be confused with DeKalb County's City of Decatur near Atlanta). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/decatour-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13091 · Eastman

## Dodge County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Dodge County and the City of Eastman to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

**DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.

**MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** unknown

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Dodge County is a small rural central Georgia county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/dodge-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13093 · Vienna

## Dooly County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify. Only non-potentially hazardous foods permitted.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

**PET RESTRICTIONS** Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated

**WATER SUPPLY** Potable water required; annual coliform testing required if using a private well

**HANDWASHING** Standard sanitation practices required; ANSI-accredited food safety training required

**FOOD STORAGE** Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under HB 398 (eff. July 2025). GDA may enter premises upon complaint or public health emergency.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Dooly County and the City of Vienna, GA to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all permitted. Events and farmers markets permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	unknown

## Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; local zoning must be checked independently

### RESEARCH NOTES

Dooly County is a small rural south-central Georgia county (county seat Vienna, GA — not Austria). No county-specific cottage food ordinance variations found. Defaulted to GA state baseline (post-HB 398) with medium confidence.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dph.georgia.gov/dooly-county>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food>

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/40-7-19>

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RANK 9999 · FIPS 13099 · Blakely

# Early County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Early County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Early County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Early County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Early County Code of Ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Early County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

- <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>
- <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13101 · Statenville

## Echols County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

- HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
- SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Echols County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Echols County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Echols County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Echols County Code of Ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/ counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. Echols County is one of Georgia's smallest counties by population; formal zoning may be limited.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13105 · Elberton

## Elbert County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Elbert County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Elbert County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

## Relevant county code

Elbert County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Elbert County Code of Ordinances

### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Elbert County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

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RANK 9999 · FIPS 13107 · Swainsboro

# Emanuel County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Emanuel County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Emanuel County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Emanuel County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Emanuel County Code of Ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Emanuel County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

- <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>
- <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13109 · Claxton

## Evans County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

- HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
- SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Evans County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Evans County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Evans County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Evans County Code of Ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/ counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Evans County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 13111 · Blue Ridge

## Fannin County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Fannin County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Fannin County's zoning ordinance. Blue Ridge is the county seat and tourism hub; local registration may be required for cottage food vendors at farmers markets or events.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE    yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP        yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE                conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES    Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME    Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Fannin County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Fannin County Code of Ordinances

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Fannin County is a mountain tourism county (Blue Ridge); cottage food operators selling at local markets should verify any event-specific permitting with Fannin County Planning. No county-specific cottage food code identified in research.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

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RANK 9999 · FIPS 13119 · Carnesville

# Franklin County

Population 0 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 ·

MEDIUM

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Food handler certification (specific course) required. Must label 'NOT MADE IN A STATE-INSPECTED FACILITY.' Under HB 398, counties may opt out of allowing third-party vendor sales but cannot otherwise directly regulate cottage food operators.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply (well) requires annual coliform bacteria testing per state rules.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per GDA cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — GDA may inspect upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Franklin County may require a business license for commercial activity. Home occupation rules vary by zoning district under Franklin County's zoning ordinance.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; interstate sales now permitted.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

Franklin County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Franklin County Code of Ordinances

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Pattern county — no county-specific cottage food rules found. State baseline (GA HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) governs. Georgia's 2025 law significantly expanded cottage food rights. Under HB 398, cities/counties may opt out of third-party vendor sales via ordinance but cannot impose broader cottage food regulations. Local business licensing and zoning still apply. No Franklin County-specific cottage food code identified in research.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

- <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>
- <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

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