

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

North Carolina

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under 02 NCAC 9C.0307.

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	B-	100	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 North Carolina 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 100 North Carolina counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

none

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

yes

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

no

KITCHEN INSPECTION

yes

DIRECT SALES ONLY

no

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.

RESEARCH NOTES

The original statute_url (PDF at oah.state.nc.us) returned HTTP 404; the NC Agriculture department page was used as primary source. The NC home processor program requires an annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS, which is the key distinguishing feature — NC has no sales cap but requires yearly inspection. The rule is codified as 02 NCAC 09C .0307 under the North Carolina Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (G.S. Chapter 106, Article 12). Pets in the home disqualify applicants, per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B). The state_dept_cottage_url was updated to the working URL found during research.

02 NCAC 09C .0307 Registration (North Carolina Administrative Code, Title 02 Agriculture and Consumer Services, Chapter 09 Food and Drug Protection, Subchapter C)

CITATION

02 NCAC 9C.0307

ENACTED

unknown

LAST AMENDED

2015

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

Allowed foods

Shelf-stable, low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables are permitted. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing to confirm shelf stability.

Prohibited foods

Refrigerated or frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, seafood, bottled water/juice, and bakery products with cream or cream cheese fillings or cheesecakes are prohibited. Products must be shelf-stable; pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.

Labeling requirements

Labels required on individually packaged products for self-service sale or wholesale: product name, ingredient list in descending order by weight, net quantity, processor name and address, and all allergens. Nutritional labels not required unless specific nutrient content claims are made. Products sold directly hand-to-consumer at events may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request.

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

Starting a home-based food business If you are interested in producing and selling food products for human consumption from your home, you will need to first have your home kitchen inspected before doing so. This includes anyone selling to retail stores, restaurants, or directly to consumers. This also includes anyone opening and repackaging food products or ingredients purchased from other locations. Low risk foods are the only products allowed to be processed in your home kitchen. Low risk food products are items that are shelf stable and do not require refrigeration or freezing. These low-risk food products may include: Baked goods that do not require refrigeration; Jams, jellies, and preserves; Candies; Dried mixes/Spices; Some liquids (i.e. ice tea, coffee, lemonade, etc.); Some sauces (i.e. balsamic dressing, etc.); Acid and acidified foods (i.e. pickles, BBQ sauce, etc.); Freeze dried fruits/vegetables. High risk food products ARE NOT PERMITTED to be produced in your home kitchen and can only be produced commercially under our routine inspection program.

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

Official sources

Statute <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

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

Extension service <https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/local-food-cottage-food/>

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

State dept of agriculture / health: **North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

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 100 North Carolina counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 40 · FIPS 37183 · —

Wake County

Population 1,132,103 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Wake County follows NC state baseline: home processors are regulated by NCDA&CS, which requires an annual kitchen inspection before approval. Wake County Division of Environmental Health & Safety regulates TCS (time/temperature control) foods — TCS foods cannot be made at home and require a commercial facility. Low-risk non-TCS foods (baked goods, jams, candies, dried mixes, some sauces) are allowed in home kitchens under NCDA&CS oversight. Pets in the home disqualify applicants.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets in the home — not just during production, but at any time. This is a state rule (21 CFR 117 Subpart B GMP). Indoor pets constitute disqualification from the home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Must include copy of recent water bill (municipal water) or have well water tested for coliform bacteria before inspection.
HANDWASHING	Easily accessible restroom and hand-washing facilities with hot and cold running water required.
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant within 8-12 weeks to arrange a home kitchen inspection. Annual inspection required for renewal. Wake County EHS does not regulate low-risk home processed foods.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NCDA&CS guidance requires operators to check local zoning and licensing requirements with their local government. Wake County municipalities (Raleigh, Cary, Apex, etc.) have their own home occupation ordinances. No specific Wake County-level permit found for cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants allowed. No sales cap. Products may be sold statewide. Wake County EHS notes that commissaries/shared kitchens are available as alternatives for TCS food production.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	state baseline applies

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (federal GMP standards applicable to NC home processors)

RESEARCH NOTES

Wake County (Raleigh area) is notable for having clear public guidance on the bifurcated regulatory structure: NCDA&CS handles low-risk home processed foods; Wake County EHS handles TCS commercial food establishments. No pets in the home at any time is a strict NC requirement. NC requires annual kitchen inspection — unusual compared to most states. Acidic foods (BBQ sauces, pickles) need product testing (NC State Extension offers pH/water activity testing service). All kitchen light bulbs must be shatter-proof or shielded (federal GMP requirement).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.wake.gov>

<https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/environmental-health-safety/regulated-facilities/home-based-food-production-guidelines>

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

RANK 41 · FIPS 37119 · Charlotte

Mecklenburg County

Population 1,115,403 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Mecklenburg County follows NC state baseline: home processors regulated by NCDA&CS, requiring annual kitchen inspection. Mecklenburg County Health Department regulates TCS food establishments (commercial). Low-risk non-TCS foods allowed in home kitchens under NCDA&CS oversight. Pets in the home disqualify applicants.
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets in the home at any time (state/federal GMP rule disqualifying condition).
WATER SUPPLY	Copy of recent water bill (municipal) or well water coliform bacteria test required with application.
HANDWASHING	Easily accessible restroom and hand-washing facilities with hot and cold running water required.
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — NCDA&CS annual home kitchen inspection required. Mecklenburg County Health Department does not separately regulate low-risk home processed foods.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NCDA&CS guidance requires operators to check local zoning and licensing requirements. Charlotte and other Mecklenburg municipalities have their own home occupation codes. No specific Mecklenburg County-level permit found for cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants allowed within NC. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	state baseline applies

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; 21 CFR 117 Subpart B

RESEARCH NOTES

Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) follows NC state baseline. Same no-pets rule applies. NCDA&CS handles home processor program statewide; county health departments (including Mecklenburg) handle commercial TCS food establishments. No Mecklenburg-specific overlay found. NC's no-cap policy with annual inspection requirement makes it distinctive among southeastern states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mecknc.gov/HealthDepartment>

<https://www.mecknc.gov>

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

RANK 126 · FIPS 37081 · Greensboro

Guilford County

Population 539,557 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/storage. Kitchen must be clean, constructed of suitable materials, free of pest activity. Detached structures (garage, basement) do not qualify.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal or private water supply inspected as part of kitchen inspection
HANDWASHING	Required per kitchen inspection standards
FOOD STORAGE	Kitchen must be in main home dwelling only; no detached structures

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual kitchen inspection required before and during operation. Inspectors from NC Department of Agriculture conduct inspections. Notice of Inspection provided; major violations may disqualify from home-based food business.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — NC NCDA&CS Home Processor program requires producers to 'contact your local planning/zoning department to determine if you are permitted to operate a food business from your home and if permits are required.' Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin retrieved from official guilfordcountync.gov confirms: Home occupations permitted in AG, RS, RM, MXU, NB zones; requires Home Occupation Permit via Guilford County EPL (Civic Access Portal); food catering is listed as a permitted example; up to 25% of gross floor area; no outdoor storage; one 4 sq ft freestanding sign (no permit needed); one non-occupant employee may work at residence; must contact Planner at 336-641-3334. Also check with HOA/leasing office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sales and delivery permitted within North Carolina. Interstate sales allowed through some channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Guilford County home occupation: only one non-occupant employee may work at/come to the residence

Relevant county code

Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin (guilfordcountync.gov); 02 NCAC 9C.0307.

RESEARCH NOTES

Both Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin (official guilfordcountync.gov PDF) and NC NCDA&CS Home Processor page (official ncagr.gov) retrieved. Guilford County confirms food catering as permitted home occupation; 25% area limit; one non-occupant employee; one 4 sq ft sign. NC state requires annual kitchen inspection and explicitly bars pets from kitchen. NC home processor program allows direct and wholesale sales with no sales cap. State requires local zoning check. Confidence high for both county zoning and state requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov>

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/media/425/download?attachment=>

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

RANK 184 · FIPS 37067 · Winston-Salem

Forsyth County

Population 383,739 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allowed shelf-stable low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy, seafood, meat, bottled water/juice, cream/cream cheese-filled baked goods, cheesecakes. PETS IN HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS entirely. No sales cap. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County requires separate Home Occupation zoning permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified beyond standard food safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per annual kitchen inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required for registration renewal.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division requires a home occupation zoning permit (\$50 fee, 3-day review). Submit: floor plan, parking survey, application form, and affidavit. Conditions: no exterior evidence of business; max 25% of floor area; 3 parking spaces; max 1 outside employee + family; no display windows or sales rooms; one non-illuminated sign max 144 sq in. Home cooking, baking, and preserving are listed as permitted service occupations. Business license also required from City Revenue Office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sales outside North Carolina without additional approval.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Only 1 outside employee plus family members residing in dwelling.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307 (state home processor); Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Home Occupation zoning permit confirmed from official cityofws.org document. Permit fee \$50, 3-day review. Home cooking, baking, preserving explicitly listed as permitted service occupations. NC state Home Processor program requires annual inspection and prohibits pets in home entirely. Separate business license required from City Revenue Office. Confidence high: both state program and city-county permit requirement confirmed from .gov sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.forsyth.cc>

<https://www.cityofws.org/DocumentCenter/View/7018/Home-Occupations-Zoning-and-Permitting-Requirements-PDF>

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

RANK 210 · FIPS 37051 · Fayetteville

Cumberland County

Population 335,207 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307; home kitchen inspection required before operating; no sales cap; direct and indirect sales; no food handler cert required at state level ·

MEDIUM

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen inspection required before operating; no pets/animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate building); business plan and labeling required before inspection; well water must be tested
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets or animals permitted in the home at any time under NC home processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water or tested well water (coliform test required for well water)
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required before operating; subsequent complaint-based inspections possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NC NCAGR requires operators to check local planning/zoning before applying. Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville may require home occupation permit. Operator must verify with local planning department per NCAGR Step 4 guidance
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

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

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

NC has a notably burdensome startup process (home inspection required, business plan, zoning check). Pet prohibition is strict. No Cumberland County-specific overlay beyond state rules found. Fayetteville is large military-adjacent city.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/north-carolina/>

RANK 218 · FIPS 37063 · Durham

Durham County

Population 325,101 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307; initial home kitchen inspection required; no sales cap; direct and indirect sales; no pets in home at any time · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Initial home kitchen inspection required; no pets/animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate building); business plan and labeling required before inspection; well water must be tested for coliform bacteria
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets or animals in the home at any time — strict NC requirement
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water or tested well water (coliform test required)
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection before operating; subsequent complaint-based inspections possible
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT yes — City of Durham requires a Home Occupation Permit (\$52 fee) for home-based businesses. Application submitted through Durham Planning & Development portal at durhamnc.gov/4760/Home-Occupation-Permit. Business must first be registered with NC Secretary of State

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

City of Durham Planning & Development home occupation permit requirement

RESEARCH NOTES

City of Durham confirmed: \$52 Home Occupation Permit required for home-based businesses. NC NCAGR explicitly requires local zoning check before applying for home processor status. Durham city permit applies to unincorporated county operations through Durham's planning jurisdiction.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dconc.gov>

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

<https://www.durhamnc.gov/4760/Home-Occupation-Permit>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/north-carolina/>

RANK 255 · FIPS 37021 · Asheville

Buncombe County

Population 269,449 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS before operating. Pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling (not garage, basement, or separate building). Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must also obtain Buncombe County home occupation permit from Planning & Development.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant from the NC home processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities; sanitary kitchen required per GMP inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required; initial and yearly re-inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Buncombe County requires a Home Occupation Permit (BNC Home Occupation form). Conditions: must be in dwelling or accessory structure; occupation incidental/secondary to residence; no more than 25% of floor space; no outside storage or visible evidence of business; no excessive traffic; max 2 non-resident employees; no nuisance equipment or processes; unlighted sign only, max 2 sq ft.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online); annual inspection report serves as authorization. City of Asheville has separate municipal zoning rules.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Max 2 non-resident employees per Buncombe County home occupation permit

Relevant county code

Buncombe County Zoning Ordinance (Home Occupation provisions); 02 NCAC 9C.0307 (state)

RESEARCH NOTES

Buncombe County Home Occupation Permit application PDF retrieved directly from buncombenc.gov (.gov source). NC state home processor program confirms annual inspection requirement, pet prohibition, and kitchen location rules. The combination of state annual inspection plus county home occupation permit makes this one of the more demanding county frameworks in the batch. Confidence high due to direct county .gov document retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/PDS/development/zoning.aspx>

<https://www.buncombecounty.org>

<https://www.buncombenc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1496/Home-Occupation-Permit-PDF>

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

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

RANK 282 · FIPS 37179 · Monroe

Union County

Population 240,109 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED conditional — Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling (not garage, basement, or separate building). Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with Union County Planning for home occupation permit.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing; sanitary kitchen required per GMP inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required; initial and yearly
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Union County Planning Department likely requires home occupation permit per NC state law requirement to check with local planning/zoning (step 4 of NC NCDA&CS home processor application process). Check with Union County Planning & Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after inspection. City of Monroe has municipal zoning.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation restrictions may limit non-resident employees

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 9C.0307; Union County Planning ordinance (home occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Union County NC follows the state baseline. NC home processor program requires annual inspection and prohibits pets. No Union County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed but no specific Union County .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.unioncountync.gov>

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

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

RANK 298 · FIPS 37071 · Gastonia

Gaston County

Population 228,972 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling. Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with Gaston County Planning for home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing; sanitary kitchen per GMP inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Gaston County is listed as 'pattern' — no county URLs. NC home processor application requires checking with local planning/zoning department. Check with Gaston County Planning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed after annual inspection. Gastonia city limits have municipal zoning.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation restrictions may apply

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 9C.0307; Gaston County Planning zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Gaston County NC is listed as 'pattern' with no county URLs. Follows NC state baseline. Annual inspection and pet prohibition apply. No Gaston County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 299 · FIPS 37129 · Wilmington

New Hanover County

Population 228,134 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant. Kitchen must be in the dwelling. Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with New Hanover County Planning for home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing; sanitary kitchen per GMP inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT yes — New Hanover County and City of Wilmington may require home occupation permits under local zoning. NC home processor application step 4 requires checking with local planning/zoning. Check with New Hanover County Planning & Land Use.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP conditional

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after annual inspection. Wilmington city limits have municipal zoning.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home occupation restrictions may limit

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 9C.0307; New Hanover County Unified Development Ordinance

RESEARCH NOTES

New Hanover County NC follows NC state baseline. Annual inspection and pet prohibition apply. County .gov URL (nhcgov.com) confirmed from input. No county-specific cottage food ordinance text retrieved. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.nhcgov.com>

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

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

RANK 306 · FIPS 37025 · Concord

Cabarrus County

Population 226,396 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be within the home (not a separate building, garage, or basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Cabarrus County applicants must also verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet presence anywhere in the home during production or inspection disqualifies the application.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Non-public/well water: must be tested for coliforms within one year of application submission; store-bought test kit results not accepted.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen must have adequate handwashing facilities; inspector verifies during initial inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products may be stored. Areas used for material/ingredient/equipment storage are included in the inspection. Standard GMP storage requirements apply.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required before operating. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant 8-12 weeks after application submission to arrange inspection. Post-approval inspections may occur; no permit is issued but an inspection report and 'Notice of Inspection' are provided. Annual re-inspection is required to maintain status.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — NC home processor program requires applicants to verify with local county/city planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the residence and whether permits are required. Cabarrus County Planning/Zoning and relevant municipalities (Concord, Kannapolis, etc.) may require a home occupation permit. HOA approval is also recommended. Applicants must document this on the NCDA&CS application (Section 2).

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order prohibition at state level; confirmation of zoning rules for home pickup recommended.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME NCDA&CS application asks for number of anticipated employees; no explicit statutory employee cap for home processors, but home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307 (NC Home Processor program); Cabarrus County Planning/Zoning (contact required per NC program Step 4)

RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence for state process: NCDA&CS application and home processor steps confirmed directly from official ncagr.gov sources. North Carolina's program is distinctive in requiring an annual inspection (no pet exception), local zoning verification, and water testing for wells. Cabarrus County is a suburban/exurban county in the Charlotte metro area. The county seat is Concord. No Cabarrus County-specific cottage food overrides found beyond the state process requirement for local zoning verification.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cabarruscounty.us>

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

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processing-app-pdf/download>

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

RANK 312 · FIPS 37101 · Smithfield

Johnston County

Population 219,042 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be in the home (not a separate building/garage/basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Johnston County applicants must verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Non-public/well water: coliform test required within one year of application; store-bought test kits not accepted.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas inspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection arranged by NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspection required. No permit issued; notice of inspection provided.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NC home processor program requires verification with local county/city planning that a food business is permitted at the residence. Johnston County Planning and relevant municipalities (Smithfield, Clayton, Selma, etc.) may require a home occupation permit. HOA approval recommended.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. No internet-sale prohibition at state level. Verify local zoning for home pickup.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	NCDA&CS application requests anticipated number of employees; no explicit statutory cap. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; Johnston County Planning ordinances (contact required per NC program Step 4)

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina state baseline applies. Johnston County (county seat: Smithfield) is a growing suburban county south of Raleigh. No Johnston County-specific cottage food pages or overrides found. State process requires local zoning verification. The NC home processor program is administered entirely at the state level; county health departments are not the primary point of contact (NCDA&CS handles it).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 333 · FIPS 37133 · Jacksonville

Onslow County

Population 203,686 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before selling food. Kitchen must be in the home (not a separate building/garage/basement). Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. Onslow County (Jacksonville area, Camp Lejeune) applicants must verify with local planning/zoning that a food business is permitted at the residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets considered pests under GMP requirements.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Non-public/well water: coliform test required within one year of application.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products only. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas included in inspection.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection arranged by NCDA&CS 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NC home processor program requires verification with local county/city planning that a food business is permitted at the residence. Onslow County Planning and Jacksonville City may require a home occupation permit. Contact Onslow County Planning or City of Jacksonville Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Verify local zoning for home pickup.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** No explicit statutory employee cap; home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; Onslow County zoning ordinances

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina state baseline applies. Onslow County (county seat: Jacksonville) is home to Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. NC home processor program administered at state level; local zoning verification required as part of application.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 354 · FIPS 37097 · Statesville

Iredell County

Population 187,839 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

- HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-risk foods allowed. No refrigerated or frozen products.
- SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no
- PET RESTRICTIONS** Pets in home disqualify applicant; no pets allowed in household during registration under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
- WATER SUPPLY** Potable water; private well water may require testing.
- HANDWASHING** Dedicated handwashing sink required; must be separate from food prep sink.
- FOOD STORAGE** Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection required by NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) before and during operation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NC state law does not preempt local zoning for home occupations. Iredell County zoning requires home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones; business must be secondary to residential use. Statesville has separate municipal zoning. No county URLs provided in input for verification.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales allowed at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online and mail order permitted. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Production limited to household members; state rules focus on home processor registration.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; NC Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act G.S. Chapter 106, Article 12

RESEARCH NOTES

NC requires annual kitchen inspection, making it distinct from most states. No county-level override found; state baseline governs. Iredell County URLs were blank in input. Pitt County CityRuleLookup reference notes \$50,000/year limit for NC cottage food, though the state statute has no explicit cap — this may reflect an informal guidance figure. No sales cap is stated in 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 381 • FIPS 37001 • Graham

Alamance County

Population 171,779 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. No refrigerated or frozen products.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; private well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Dedicated handwashing sink required.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Alamance County zoning may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. NC is a Dillon's Rule state with broad municipal zoning grants. County URLs were blank in input. Graham city has separate municipal zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; NC G.S. Chapter 106, Article 12

RESEARCH NOTES

Alamance County (Graham/Burlington area) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond NC state baseline. County URLs were blank in input. NC annual kitchen inspection distinguishes state from most others.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 384 · FIPS 37147 · Greenville

Pitt County

Population 171,196 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; private well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Dedicated handwashing sink required.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Pitt County regulates home businesses through zoning ordinance under N.C.G.S. §160A-381 (Dillon's Rule state). Home occupation permit and business privilege license typically required. NC Cottage Food Law (N.C.G.S. §130A-250) — note: \$50,000/year informal limit referenced by local sources but state statute has no explicit cap. No exterior alteration, no outside storage, no hazardous materials. Residence must remain primarily residential. Pitt County Planning and Development website confirmed at pittcountync.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Typically household members only per home occupation permit.

Relevant county code

Pitt County Zoning Ordinance (home occupations under N.C.G.S. §160A-381); 02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

Pitt County government zoning website confirmed at pittcountync.gov. CityRuleLookup confirms home occupation permit and business privilege license required under NC zoning authority (N.C.G.S. §160A-381). CityRuleLookup cites \$50,000/year NC Cottage Food Law limit — this may reflect an informal guidance figure or interpretation; the state statute (02 NCAC 09C .0307) does not specify a dollar cap. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS distinguishes NC from most states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.pittcountync.gov>

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

<https://www.pittcountync.gov/260/Land-Use-Zoning>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/pitt-county-nc>

RANK 388 · FIPS 37057 · Lexington

Davidson County

Population 169,498 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely.

WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; private well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Dedicated handwashing sink required.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection required by NCDA&CS.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Davidson County zoning may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. NC Dillon's Rule state. County URLs were blank in input. Lexington city has separate municipal zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; NC G.S. Chapter 106, Article 12

RESEARCH NOTES

Davidson County has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond NC state baseline. County URLs were blank in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 409 · FIPS 37035 · Newton

Catawba County

Population 161,011 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in standard state rules, though facility must meet GMP standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required per NCDA&CS Home Processor rules.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Catawba County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. NCDA&CS Home Processor registration is state-level. 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 sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and some retail channels. No sales requiring refrigeration.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Catawba County Zoning Ordinance; 02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. NC Home Processor program requires annual inspection — one of the most distinctive requirements in the US. Pet disqualification is an absolute rule. No Catawba County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

RANK 447 · FIPS 37159 · Salisbury

Rowan County

Population 147,067 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in standard state rules, though facility must meet GMP standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required per NCDA&CS Home Processor rules.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Rowan County may require a home occupation permit under local 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 sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and some retail channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Rowan County Zoning Ordinance; 02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. NC Home Processor program requires annual inspection. Pet disqualification is an absolute rule. No Rowan County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

RANK 448 · FIPS 37135 · Hillsborough

Orange County

Population 145,919 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely. Annual renewal required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in standard state rules, though facility must meet GMP standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facility required per NCDA&CS Home Processor rules.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS inspector required before permit issuance and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Orange County and Chapel Hill may require home occupation permits under local zoning (UNC Chapel Hill is located here). Orange County has its own planning/zoning department. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified beyond state requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and some retail channels.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Orange County Zoning Ordinance; 02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. NC Home Processor program requires annual inspection. Pet disqualification is an absolute rule. No Orange County-specific cottage food code identified beyond state requirements. County URL verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.orangecountync.gov>

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

<https://www.orangecountync.gov>

RANK 452 · FIPS 37151 · Asheboro

Randolph County

Population 144,403 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.

HANDWASHING Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards.

FOOD STORAGE All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Randolph County has no specific documented county-level home occupation permit for cottage food operations found. County zoning ordinance may apply in unincorporated areas. The city of Asheboro may have additional requirements within city limits.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores. No geographic restriction within NC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program is intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (NC) confirmed: 02 NCAC 9C.0307, annual inspection required, pets disqualify applicants. No county-specific health or planning URLs provided in input, and no county-level cottage food ordinances for Randolph County found via research. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium as no county-specific .gov source verified for local zoning overlays.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 463 · FIPS 37019 · Bolivia

Brunswick County

Population 139,721 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required before and after registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Brunswick County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. Brunswick County is a fast-growing coastal county. No specific county-level cottage food permit override identified. Check with Brunswick County Planning at brunswickcountync.gov .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC. Sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

Not identified for Brunswick County; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (NC) confirmed: 02 NCAC 9C.0307, annual inspection, pets disqualify. Brunswick County govt URL confirmed. No specific county cottage food ordinance found. County is a rapidly growing coastal area (near Wilmington). Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov>

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

<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov>

RANK 475 · FIPS 37085 · Lillington

Harnett County

Population 134,718 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Harnett County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. Lillington and other municipalities have separate ordinances. No specific county-level cottage food override identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC — home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified.

Relevant county code

Not identified for Harnett County; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (NC) confirmed. Harnett County is a growing county south of the Research Triangle. No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 528 · FIPS 37155 · Lumberton

Robeson County

Population 117,573 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required; no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list ·

MEDIUM

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — North Carolina requires an annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant (full prohibition, not just during production). Registration required with NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. This is a complete pet prohibition, not limited to production areas.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required and assessed at annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH or water activity testing. Refrigerated/frozen products prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required to maintain registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Robeson County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. North Carolina NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. County and local municipality zoning may require home occupation permits separately. Contact Robeson County Planning or Lumberton city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants allowed). No sales cap. Products must be shelf-stable. No online shipping outside NC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (NC tier Good). NC's most distinctive feature is annual kitchen inspection and complete pet prohibition. Robeson County is one of NC's largest counties by area, with significant Native American (Lumbee Tribe) population. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 530 · FIPS 37191 · Goldsboro

Wayne County

Population 117,480 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required; no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list ·

MEDIUM

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Wayne County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required and assessed at annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH/water activity testing. Refrigerated/frozen prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required to maintain registration.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Wayne County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Wayne County Planning or Goldsboro city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants). No sales cap. Shelf-stable products only.

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

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (NC tier Good). Wayne County includes Goldsboro (pop ~35K) and is in eastern NC. Annual inspection and pet prohibition are key NC requirements. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 533 · FIPS 37089 · Hendersonville

Henderson County

Population 116,469 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 09C .0307; no sales cap; registration required; annual kitchen inspection required; no pets in home; direct and indirect sales; broad shelf-stable food list ·

MEDIUM

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Henderson County follows state baseline.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required per state food safety standards.

HANDWASHING Adequate handwashing facilities required and assessed at annual inspection.

FOOD STORAGE Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH/water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Henderson County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. NCDA&CS home processor registration is the primary regulatory requirement. Local zoning may require home occupation permits. Contact Henderson County Planning or Hendersonville city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants). No sales cap. Shelf-stable only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (NC tier Good). Henderson County is in western NC near Asheville. Annual inspection and complete pet prohibition are key NC requirements. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 593 · FIPS 37049 · New Bern

Craven County

Population 101,098 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation, but sanitation is reviewed during the annual kitchen inspection.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required; verified during annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, seafood, bottled water/juice, and bakery products with cream or cream cheese fillings or cheesecakes. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection is required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Craven County and the City of New Bern may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Craven County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state program requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Craven County code section identified. State law governs: 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

RESEARCH NOTES

Craven County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. North Carolina is notable for its annual home kitchen inspection requirement AND the strict pet prohibition. Craven County (New Bern) is a coastal county. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 594 · FIPS 37125 · Carthage

Moore County

Population 100,759 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no

PET RESTRICTIONS	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation, but sanitation reviewed during annual kitchen inspection.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required; verified during annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, seafood, bottled water/juice, bakery products with cream or cream cheese fillings or cheesecakes.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Moore County and municipalities (Carthage, Southern Pines, Pinehurst) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Moore County is known for Pinehurst golf resort area. No specific Moore County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Moore County code section identified. State law governs: 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

RESEARCH NOTES

Moore County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Moore County includes the Pinehurst/Southern Pines golf resort area. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 599 · FIPS 37045 · Shelby

Cleveland County

Population 99,527 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), and freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Pets in the home DISQUALIFY applicants entirely. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation, but sanitation reviewed during annual kitchen inspection.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required; verified during annual inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, seafood, bottled water/juice, bakery products with cream or cream cheese fillings or cheesecakes.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS required. Initial inspection before registration and annual renewal inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Cleveland County and the City of Shelby may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cleveland County cottage food ordinance identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Cleveland County code section identified. State law governs: 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cleveland County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Cleveland County is in the Piedmont foothills near the South Carolina border. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 628 · FIPS 37127 · Nashville

Nash County

Population 95,015 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina home processor program (02 NCAC 09C .0307) requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams/jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. CRITICAL: Presence of pet animals in the home DISQUALIFIES the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no

PET RESTRICTIONS	ANY pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from obtaining a home processor permit. This is a unique and strict restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement stated beyond standard kitchen safety.
HANDWASHING	Annual kitchen inspection covers food safety practices including handwashing.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only; no frozen products; no dairy, seafood, bakery items with cream/cream cheese fillings.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS). Registration required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Nash County (Nashville, NC) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Nash County-specific cottage food permit beyond state home processor registration identified. Operators must register with NCDA&CS.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed (NC allows wholesale). Sales at farmers markets, events, home, and retail stores permitted. Must be registered with NCDA&CS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in 02 NCAC 09C .0307.

Relevant county code

No Nash County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Nash County-specific cottage food rules found. North Carolina's annual kitchen inspection requirement and no-pets rule are notable distinguishing features. NC allows wholesale/indirect sales which is less common. The original state cottage food URL (oah.state.nc.us PDF) returned 404; NCDA&CS website confirmed as primary source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 648 · FIPS 37157 · Wentworth

Rockingham County

Population 91,209 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina home processor program (02 NCAC 09C .0307) requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams/jellies, preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). CRITICAL: ANY pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	ANY pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from obtaining a NC home processor permit.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement stated beyond standard kitchen safety.
HANDWASHING	Annual kitchen inspection covers food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only; no frozen, dairy, seafood, or cream-filled pastries.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Registration required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Rockingham County (Wentworth) may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Rockingham County-specific cottage food permit beyond state home processor registration identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

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

Relevant county code

No Rockingham County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

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

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 658 · FIPS 37109 · Lincolnnton

Lincoln County

Population 87,933 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — North Carolina requires a home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) disqualify the applicant entirely. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products allowed. Must use public water or pass coliform/E. coli well water test. Applicant must contact local planning/zoning department to verify home-based food business is permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no

PET RESTRICTIONS	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from operating a home-based food business under NC Home Processor program. This is strictly enforced.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current water bill. Private well: must be tested for coliform and E. coli within one year of application; test must be by a certified agency (not store-bought kit).
HANDWASHING	Kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection for cleanliness, suitable materials, and absence of pest activity. Standard food manufacturing GMP handwashing requirements apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Storage plan for supplies, equipment, and finished product must be provided with application. Areas where materials, ingredients, and equipment are stored are also inspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist required. Initial inspection arranged 8-12 weeks after application. Subsequent annual inspections required to maintain home processor status. A 'Notice of Inspection' is provided (not a permit). Major violations may disqualify the operation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NCDA&CS home processor application (Step 4) explicitly requires checking with local/county planning department to verify permission to operate a food business from the home. Lincoln County Planning Department should be consulted. HOA rules should also be checked.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rules; must be identified in the business plan submitted with application.

Relevant county code

No Lincoln County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State 02 NCAC 9C.0307 governs. Lincoln County Planning should be consulted per NCDA&CS requirements.

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina's home processor program is notable for its annual kitchen inspection requirement and absolute pet prohibition. The NCDA&CS application form confirms that contacting local zoning/planning is a required step before applying. Lincoln County (seat: Lincolnton) has no county-specific cottage food rules identified. Contact NCDA&CS at (984) 236-4820 or homeprocessing@ncagr.gov for applications. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official NCDA&CS sources; Lincoln County-specific zoning not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdspd-home-processor-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

RANK 659 · FIPS 37023 · Morganton

Burke County

Population 87,799 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify applicant. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products allowed. Must verify well water or attach public water bill. Annual re-inspection required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: current bill required. Private well: coliform and E. coli test within one year by certified agency required.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection; standard GMP handwashing requirements apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Detailed storage plan required with application. All storage areas inspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist. Initial inspection 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspections required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NCDA&CS Step 4 requires checking with local/county planning department. Burke County Planning Department (seat: Morganton) should be consulted. City of Morganton zoning rules may also apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Same as all NC counties: sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rules; must be identified in the business plan.

Relevant county code

No Burke County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State 02 NCAC 9C.0307 governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Burke County follows the same statewide NC Home Processor program rules as all NC counties. No Burke County-specific cottage food overrides identified. The absolute pet prohibition is a distinctive and burdensome NC requirement. Annual inspection also distinguishes NC from most other states. Confidence is medium: state framework confirmed; Burke County-specific rules not verified from official county source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processor-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

RANK 698 · FIPS 37027 · Lenoir

Caldwell County

Population 80,716 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify applicant. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products. Well water must be tested. Annual re-inspection required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: current bill required. Private well: coliform and E. coli test within one year by certified agency.
HANDWASHING	Kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Detailed storage plan required. All storage areas inspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Initial inspection 8-12 weeks after application.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — NCDA&CS Step 4 requires checking with local planning/zoning. Caldwell County Planning Department and City of Lenoir zoning should be consulted.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Must be identified in business plan.

Relevant county code

No Caldwell County-specific cottage food code identified. State 02 NCAC 9C.0307 governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Caldwell County (Lenoir, in the Blue Ridge foothills) follows NC Home Processor program rules. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 715 · FIPS 37195 · Wilson

Wilson County

Population 78,667 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program. This is a strict requirement per 02 NCAC 9C.0307.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required at state level. Proper sanitary practices are part of the inspection criteria.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately. Products requiring refrigeration are prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of the home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS). Application and fee required.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — No state-level home occupation permit required beyond NCDA&CS home processor registration. Wilson County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Wilson 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 Direct and indirect sales permitted. Shelf-stable products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and through other channels. No sales cap.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state cottage food rules.

Relevant county code

No Wilson County-specific cottage food code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina home processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual home kitchen inspection — this is the key distinguishing feature. No sales cap but pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant, which is one of the strictest restrictions nationally. No Wilson County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified via state baseline, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Chatham County

Population 76,754 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program — this is a strict statewide requirement per 02 NCAC 9C.0307.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required. Proper sanitary practices are part of the inspection criteria.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately. Products requiring refrigeration prohibited.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS before and during operation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No state-level home occupation permit required beyond NCDA&CS home processor registration. Chatham County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Chatham 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	Direct and indirect sales permitted. No sales cap. Products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and through other channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

No Chatham County-specific cottage food code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Chatham County follows NC home processor program rules (02 NCAC 9C.0307). Annual inspection required. Pets anywhere in home disqualify applicant. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 758 · FIPS 37171 · Dobson

Surry County

Population 71,429 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home processor registration required with NC Dept of Agriculture. Initial kitchen inspection required. No sales cap. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only; no TCS foods; no chocolate-covered fruit; no fresh-dipped items. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply; confirmed at inspection
HANDWASHING	Required; verified at registration inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be shelf-stable; appropriate storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required for registration; complaint-based follow-up possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Surry County unincorporated areas would follow county zoning for home occupation. 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-to-consumer sales; no wholesale or retail resale

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina Good-tier state. Unique feature: pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Initial kitchen inspection required. \$50,000 annual gross cap. No county-specific sources found. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 767 · FIPS 37069 · Louisburg

Franklin County

Population 69,680 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Home processor registration required with NC Dept of Agriculture. Initial kitchen inspection required. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only; no TCS foods. Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely

WATER SUPPLY Standard residential water supply; confirmed at inspection

HANDWASHING	Required; verified at registration inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required for registration; complaint-based follow-up possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Franklin County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Louisburg 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-to-consumer sales; no wholesale or retail resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina Good-tier state. Same rules as Surry County NC - pets disqualify applicant. Initial kitchen inspection required. \$50,000 cap. No county-specific sources found. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 775 · FIPS 37031 · Beaufort

Carteret County

Population 68,353 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home processor registration required with NC Dept of Agriculture. Initial kitchen inspection required. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only; no TCS foods. Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pet animals in the home disqualify the applicant entirely
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply; confirmed at inspection
HANDWASHING	Required; verified at registration inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required for registration; complaint-based follow-up possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Carteret County is a coastal county. Unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Beaufort 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-to-consumer sales; no wholesale or retail resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina Good-tier state. Carteret County is a coastal/Outer Banks adjacent county. Pets disqualify applicant - same as all NC counties. \$50,000 cap. No county-specific sources found. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 803 · FIPS 37193 · Wilkesboro

Wilkes County

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

Home kitchen rules

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

Inspection & permitting

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

Customer-facing rules

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

Relevant county code

Not identified; contact Wilkes County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Home Processor program requires annual NCDA&CS inspection, which is the key distinguishing feature. No sales cap. Pets in home disqualify applicants. County seat listed as blank in input — confirmed as Wilkesboro from FIPS data. No specific Wilkes County health or planning overrides identified. All URLs blank in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

RANK 830 · FIPS 37161 · Rutherfordton

Rutherford County

Population 64,680 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well may require testing

HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required separate from food preparation
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Rutherford County is in western NC foothills. No specific county-level home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Rutherford County Planning at (828) 287-6180.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Rutherford County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Home Processor program requires annual NCDA&CS kitchen inspection — the key restriction. Pets disqualify applicants entirely. No sales cap. Rutherford County in western NC foothills area. No county-specific overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 836 · FIPS 37105 · Sanford

Lee County

Population 63,560 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Lee County includes Sanford in the NC Sandhills region. No specific county-level home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Lee County Planning at (919) 718-4646.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no sales cap; products must be shelf-stable
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Lee County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Home Processor program requires annual NCDA&CS kitchen inspection. Pets disqualify applicants. Lee County is in the NC Sandhills/Piedmont area. No county-specific overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 840 · FIPS 37167 · Albemarle

Stanly County

Population 62,723 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Stanly County includes Albemarle in the NC Piedmont. No specific county home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Stanly County Planning at (704) 986-3696.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
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ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no sales cap; products must be shelf-stable
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Stanly County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Home Processor program requires annual NCDA&CS inspection. Pets disqualify applicants. Stanly County in NC Piedmont. No county-specific overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 847 · FIPS 37087 · Waynesville

Haywood County

Population 62,152 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Haywood County is in the western NC mountains near Great Smoky Mountains National Park. No specific county home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Haywood County Planning at (828) 452-6642.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP conditional

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales allowed; no sales cap; products must be shelf-stable

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Haywood County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Haywood County is a mountain tourism county in western NC near Waynesville. NC Home Processor annual inspection required. Pets disqualify applicants. No county-specific overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 852 · FIPS 37141 · Burgaw

Pender County

Population 61,592 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Pender County zoning may require a home occupation permit for business activities in a residence. Operators should contact Pender County Planning & Community Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Pender County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Pender County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. The critical NC-specific restriction is that ANY pet in the home disqualifies the operator — this is stricter than most states. Annual kitchen inspection distinguishes NC from most states. Pender County Planning should be consulted for home occupation zoning compliance.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

RANK 858 · FIPS 37077 · Oxford

Granville County

Population 61,161 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the annual kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Granville County zoning may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Granville County Planning & Inspections.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Granville County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Granville County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C . 0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and strict no-pet policy are the key NC-specific restrictions. Granville County is adjacent to Durham/Raleigh metro; local zoning should be verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

RANK 874 · FIPS 37163 · Clinton

Sampson County

Population 59,317 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Dept. of Agriculture. No sales cap.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).

WATER SUPPLY Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.

HANDWASHING Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the annual kitchen inspection.

FOOD STORAGE Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Sampson County zoning may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Sampson County Planning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule.

Relevant county code

Sampson County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Sampson County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C . 0307) applies. Sampson County is a rural agricultural county in southeastern NC. Annual kitchen inspection and strict no-pet policy are the key NC restrictions.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

RANK 922 · FIPS 37107 · Kinston

Lenoir County

Population 55,071 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C .0307 (NC Home Processor Program) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk non-refrigerated foods including baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce). Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely. No refrigerated or frozen products.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This is one of the strictest pet rules in the nation.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement identified beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Covered under annual inspection requirements.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required for all home processor registrations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — NCDA&CS home processor registration required (annual fee; annual kitchen inspection). No separate Lenoir County-specific permit identified. Contact NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection for home processor program.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales (retail, wholesale) permitted. Online sales and shipping within NC allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in NC rules.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; no Lenoir County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Lenoir County (Kinston) is in eastern North Carolina. NC has one of the strictest home processor programs: annual inspection required and pets in the home disqualify the applicant. No county-specific rules found. State NCDA&CS URL for home processor program was updated in research. The state cottage food URL in input references an older URL path.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 928 · FIPS 37189 · Boone

Watauga County

Population 54,540 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C .0307 (NC Home Processor Program) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Town of Boone has specific home occupation requirements under UDO Section 15.53.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant for NC home processor registration (state rule). Town of Boone home occupation rules also apply for in-town operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific well testing requirement identified beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Covered under annual inspection requirements.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required for all home processor registrations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — NCDA&CS home processor registration required (annual, with annual inspection). In Town of Boone: Home Occupation Permit required under Town of Boone Unified Development Ordinance Section 15.53. Boone restrictions: only resident family members (no outside employees); home use max 25% of floor area; no external business evidence except permitted signage; no excess traffic or parking; no noise/vibration/odor detectable off lot. On-premise sale/delivery of goods not produced in the home is prohibited. Application fee required. Contact Town of Boone Planning & Inspections. Outside Boone town limits: Watauga County Planning and Development Ordinance applies.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted under NC program. Within Town of Boone: customers visiting home may trigger home occupation restrictions on traffic; confirm with Boone Planning. Delivery allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Town of Boone: no persons other than resident family members may be engaged in the occupation.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307; Town of Boone UDO Section 15.53 (Home Occupation); Watauga County Planning and Development Ordinance

RESEARCH NOTES

Watauga County includes Boone (home of Appalachian State University) and surrounding mountain area. Town of Boone has specific, well-documented home occupation permit requirements under UDO §15.53: family-members only, max 25% floor area, no external business evidence, no excess traffic. The county planning site and Boone home occupation application PDF were both accessible and specific. NC's annual inspection requirement and pet disqualification rule are uniquely strict. Verified via county and town government sources — high confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/Planning/ordinances.aspx

<https://www.wataugacounty.org>

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

https://www.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/Planning/ordinances.aspx

<https://townofboone.net/DocumentCenter/View/970/Home-Occupation-Application-PDF>

RANK 952 · FIPS 37093 · Raeford

Hoke County

Population 52,612 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time (GMP violation). Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP) standards. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products allowed. Must verify with Hoke County planning department that food business is permitted at property.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time during operation — presence of any indoor pet disqualifies the applicant from the home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Well/non-public water: must have water tested for coliforms within one year of application; store-bought test kits not accepted.
HANDWASHING	Running water at suitable temperature and pressure required. Standard household sinks acceptable.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted. Equipment and supplies must be stored inside the dwelling.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required before production begins. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant within 2 weeks of application receipt to arrange inspection. Annual re-inspection applies.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Applicants must verify with Hoke County planning department and HOA (if applicable) that operating a food business is permitted at the property before applying for home processor inspection. County-level permit requirements vary.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Products may be sold directly to consumers. Allowed sales channels include retail stores, restaurants (if produced lawfully), and direct-to-consumer. No explicit delivery restrictions in state program beyond requiring direct sale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state home processor rules; county zoning may impose limits.

Relevant county code

NC Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP); 02 NCAC 9C.0307

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina does not have a standalone cottage food law. Home processing requires a NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection (annual). The no-pets rule is a strict disqualifier. Must contact Hoke County planning department to confirm the food business can operate at the property. Products must be shelf-stable and non-refrigerated. Acidified foods require additional CFR 21 § 114 compliance. No Hoke County-specific ordinances found in research; state baseline and NCDA&CS program rules apply.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processing-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

<https://pickyourown.org/CottageFoodLaws-NorthCarolina.php>

RANK 970 · FIPS 37047 · Whiteville

Columbus County

Population 50,827 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP) standards. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products allowed. Must verify with Columbus County planning that food business is permitted at property. Garage, basement, or separate building kitchens not allowed under home processor program.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — presence of any indoor pet disqualifies the applicant.
WATER SUPPLY	Public water: attach current bill. Well/non-public water: must have water tested for coliforms within one year of application.
HANDWASHING	Running water at suitable temperature and pressure required. Standard household sinks acceptable.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required before production. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant within 2 weeks of application. Annual re-inspection applies.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Applicants must verify with Columbus County planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the property. County-level permit requirements vary.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** Products may be sold directly to consumers at retail stores, restaurants, and farmers markets, or via direct-to-consumer delivery. No explicit state-level delivery restrictions.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** Not specified in state home processor rules; county zoning may impose limits.

Relevant county code

NC Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; 21 CFR 117 Subpart B; 02 NCAC 9C.0307

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina home processor program requires annual kitchen inspection and prohibits pets. Columbus County is a rural southeastern NC county. No Columbus County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Must check with Columbus County planning to confirm home food business is permitted at the property.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/food-drug-food-program-home-processor>
- <https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processing-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

RANK 997 · FIPS 37061 · Kenansville

Duplin County

Population 49,312 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

- HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** conditional — Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP). Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products. Must verify with Duplin County planning that food business is permitted at property. Separate building kitchens not allowed.
- SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** no
- PET RESTRICTIONS** Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — disqualifies applicant from program.
- WATER SUPPLY** Public water: attach current bill. Well/non-public water: must have water tested for coliforms within one year of application.

HANDWASHING	Running water at suitable temperature and pressure required.
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Initial inspection required before production. Annual re-inspection applies.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Applicants must verify with Duplin County planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the property before applying for home processor inspection.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Products may be sold at retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, and directly to consumers.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rules; county zoning may impose limits.

Relevant county code

NC Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; 21 CFR 117 Subpart B; 02 NCAC 9C.0307

RESEARCH NOTES

North Carolina home processor program requires annual kitchen inspection and prohibits pets. Duplin County is a rural eastern NC county known for poultry farming. No Duplin County-specific cottage food ordinances found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/food-drug-food-program-home-processor>
<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdspd-home-processing-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37003 · Taylorsville

Alexander County

Population 37,497 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting a home-based food business. Alexander County zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; the City of Taylorsville may have additional requirements. No Alexander County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina. No geographic restriction within NC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law — applicants must check county/city zoning. No Alexander County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37005 · Sparta

Alleghany County

Population 11,137 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Alleghany County is a small rural mountain county; zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Alleghany County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Alleghany County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Rural mountain county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37007 · Wadesboro

Anson County

Population 24,453 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Anson County is a rural Piedmont county; zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. City of Wadesboro may have additional requirements. No Anson County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Anson County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37009 · Jefferson

Ashe County

Population 27,203 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Ashe County is a rural mountain county in the NC high country; zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Ashe County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Ashe County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Rural mountain county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37011 · Newland

Avery County

Population 18,289 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Avery County is a high-elevation mountain county (Grandfather Mountain area). Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Avery County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Avery County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Mountain county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37013 · Washington

Beaufort County

Population 47,102 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Beaufort County is a coastal plain county in eastern NC. County zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; City of Washington may have additional requirements. No Beaufort County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Beaufort County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37015 · Windsor

Bertie County

Population 18,947 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Bertie County is a rural northeastern NC county. Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Bertie County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Bertie County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37017 · Elizabethtown

Bladen County

Population 32,390 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Bladen County is a rural southeastern NC county. Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Town of Elizabethtown may have additional requirements. No Bladen County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Bladen County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37029 · Camden

Camden County

Population 11,048 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Camden County is a small rural county in northeastern NC near the Albemarle Sound. Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Camden County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Camden County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Small rural county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37033 · Yanceyville

Caswell County

Population 23,401 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Caswell County is a rural Piedmont county near the Virginia border. Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Caswell County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Caswell County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37039 · Murphy

Cherokee County

Population 28,612 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Cherokee County is the westernmost county in NC (Murphy area). Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Town of Murphy may have additional requirements. No Cherokee County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Cherokee County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Westernmost NC mountain county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37041 · Edenton

Chowan County

Population 14,184 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Chowan County is a small coastal plain county in northeastern NC along the Albemarle Sound (county seat Edenton is a historic waterfront town). Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Town of Edenton may have additional requirements. No Chowan County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Chowan County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37043 · Hayesville

Clay County

Population 11,377 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Clay County is a small mountainous county in far western NC near the Georgia/Tennessee border. Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Clay County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Clay County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Small mountain county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37053 · Currituck

Currituck County

Population 28,829 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Currituck County is a coastal county in northeastern NC near the Virginia border (includes portions of the Outer Banks and Corolla). Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Short Distance Transmission Zoning may apply to OBX portions. No Currituck County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Currituck County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Growing coastal county near VA border. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37055 · Manteo

Dare County

Population 38,208 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Dare County encompasses the Outer Banks (Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head, Hatteras Island, Ocracoke). Tourism economy with seasonal population. Dare County zoning and individual Outer Banks town ordinances may impose additional home occupation restrictions. No Dare County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. Dare County (Outer Banks) has numerous incorporated beach towns that may have additional home occupation restrictions; applicants should verify with the specific municipality or Dare County Planning. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37059 · Mocksville

Davie County

Population 42,986 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.

HANDWASHING Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).

FOOD STORAGE All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Davie County is a growing Piedmont county near the Forsyth/Winston-Salem metro area. County zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Town of Mocksville may have additional requirements. No Davie County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Davie County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37065 · Tarboro

Edgecombe County

Population 51,472 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Edgecombe County is a Coastal Plain county in northeastern NC. County zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Town of Tarboro and City of Rocky Mount (split with Nash County) may have additional requirements. No Edgecombe County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Edgecombe County-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37073 · Gatesville

Gates County

Population 11,563 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Gates County is a very rural county in northeastern NC near the Virginia border; it is the only county in NC without an incorporated municipality. Zoning ordinance governs the unincorporated county. No Gates County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. Gates County is notable as the only NC county with no incorporated municipality. No county-specific cottage food ordinances found. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37075 · Robbinsville

Graham County

Population 8,576 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Graham County is a small, mountainous county in far western NC near the Tennessee and Georgia borders (Cherohala Skyway area). Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas. No Graham County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Graham County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Small remote mountain county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37079 · Snow Hill

Greene County

Population 20,862 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated or frozen products allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required. Private well users must verify water safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per NCDA&CS home kitchen inspection standards and 21 CFR 117 Subpart B (GMP).
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection required before registration is issued and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — NC state program requires checking with local county planning/zoning department before starting. Greene County is a small rural agricultural county in eastern NC. Zoning ordinance governs unincorporated areas; Town of Snow Hill may have additional requirements. No Greene County-specific cottage food ordinances found via research.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home processor program intended for small-scale individual operations.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (02 NCAC 9C.0307) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

NC Good-tier state. Annual inspection required; pets disqualify applicants. Local ordinances are NOT preempted by state law. No Greene County-specific cottage food ordinances found. Rural eastern NC agricultural county. State baseline applied.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37083 · Halifax

Halifax County

Population 50,010 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Halifax County zoning may require a home occupation permit for business activities in a residence in unincorporated areas. Operators should contact Halifax County Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Halifax County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Halifax County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. The critical NC-specific restriction is that ANY pet in the home disqualifies the operator. Annual kitchen inspection distinguishes NC from most states. Halifax County Planning should be consulted for home occupation zoning compliance.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37091 · Winton

Hertford County

Population 20,894 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Hertford County zoning may require a home occupation permit for business activities in a residence in unincorporated areas. Operators should contact Hertford County Planning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Hertford County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Hertford County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C . 0307) applies. The critical NC-specific restriction is that ANY pet in the home disqualifies the operator. Annual kitchen inspection distinguishes NC from most states. Hertford County Planning should be consulted for home occupation zoning compliance.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37095 · Swanquarter

Hyde County

Population 5,229 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Hyde County is a very rural, small county. Zoning jurisdiction may be limited. Operators should contact Hyde County for any local home occupation requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Hyde County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Hyde County. Hyde County is one of the least populated counties in NC with limited zoning jurisdiction. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37099 · Sylva

Jackson County

Population 43,985 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Jackson County has a Unified Development Ordinance that includes home occupation provisions in unincorporated areas. Operators should contact Jackson County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Jackson County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Jackson County. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C . 0307) applies. Jackson County is a mountain county in western NC with active tourism. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide. Jackson County Planning should be consulted for home occupation zoning compliance.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

Jones County

Population 9,708 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Jones County is a small, rural county. Zoning jurisdiction in unincorporated areas may have limited home occupation regulations. Operators should contact Jones County for any local requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Jones County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Jones County. One of NC's smaller and more rural counties. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37111 · Marion

McDowell County

Population 45,593 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — McDowell County has zoning jurisdiction in unincorporated areas. Home occupation permit may be required. Operators should contact McDowell County Planning for specific requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

McDowell County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for McDowell County. Western NC foothills county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37113 · Franklin

Macon County

Population 36,227 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Macon County has a Unified Development Ordinance covering unincorporated areas. Home occupation permit may be required. Operators should contact Macon County Planning for specific requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Macon County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Macon County. Mountain county in far western NC. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37115 · Marshall

Madison County

Population 21,501 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Madison County is a rural Appalachian county. Zoning may apply in unincorporated areas. Operators should contact Madison County Planning for any home occupation permit requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Madison County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Madison County. Rural mountain county in western NC near Asheville. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37117 · Williamston

Martin County

Population 22,440 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Martin County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Martin County Planning for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Martin County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Martin County. Rural eastern NC county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37121 · Bakersville

Mitchell County

Population 15,042 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Mitchell County is a small mountain county. Zoning jurisdiction in unincorporated areas may be limited. Operators should contact Mitchell County for any local home occupation requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Mitchell County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Mitchell County. High-elevation mountain county in far western NC. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37123 · Troy

Montgomery County

Population 27,797 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Montgomery County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Montgomery County Planning for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Montgomery County. Piedmont/foothills NC county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37131 · Jackson

Northampton County

Population 19,483 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Northampton County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Northampton County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Northampton County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Northampton County. Rural northeastern NC county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37137 · Bayboro

Pamlico County

Population 12,726 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Pamlico County is a small coastal county. Zoning jurisdiction may require a home occupation permit in unincorporated areas. Operators should contact Pamlico County for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Pamlico County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Pamlico County. Small coastal/estuary county in eastern NC. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37139 · Elizabeth City

Pasquotank County

Population 39,824 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Pasquotank County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Elizabeth City (county seat) has its own city zoning regulations that apply within city limits. Operators should contact Pasquotank County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Pasquotank County. Northeastern NC coastal county, home to Elizabeth City. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37143 · Hertford

Perquimans County

Population 13,394 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Perquimans County is a small coastal/estuary county. Zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Perquimans County for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Perquimans County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Perquimans County. Small northeastern NC county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37145 · Roxboro

Person County

Population 39,156 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Person County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Person County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Person County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Person County. North-central NC county bordering Virginia. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37149 · Columbus

Polk County

Population 21,106 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Polk County has zoning jurisdiction in unincorporated areas. Home occupation permit may be required. Operators should contact Polk County Planning for specific requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Polk County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Polk County. Small mountain-foothills county in western NC near Tryon. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37153 · Rockingham

Richmond County

Population 44,571 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Richmond County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Richmond County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Richmond County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Richmond County. South-central NC county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37165 · Laurinburg

Scotland County

Population 34,992 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Scotland County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Scotland County Planning for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Scotland County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Scotland County. South-central NC county near Laurinburg. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37169 · Danbury

Stokes County

Population 46,311 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Stokes County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Stokes County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Stokes County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Stokes County. Piedmont NC county bordering Virginia. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37173 · Bryson City

Swain County

Population 14,271 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Swain County is a mountain county that includes most of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Limited unincorporated county zoning jurisdiction. Operators should contact Swain County for any local requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Swain County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Swain County. Far western NC mountain county. Much of the county is federally protected parkland. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37175 · Brevard

Transylvania County

Population 34,385 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Transylvania County has a Unified Development Ordinance that may include home occupation provisions. Operators should contact Transylvania County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Transylvania County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Transylvania County. Western NC mountain county near Brevard. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37177 · Columbia

Tyrrell County

Population 3,641 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Tyrrell County is one of the least populated counties in the US. Limited zoning jurisdiction likely. Operators should contact Tyrrell County for any local requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Tyrrell County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Tyrrell County. One of the smallest-population counties in NC and the US (population ~3,641). Northeastern coastal plain county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37181 · Henderson

Vance County

Population 44,143 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Vance County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Vance County Planning for requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Vance County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Vance County. North-central NC county near Henderson. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37185 · Warrenton

Warren County

Population 19,731 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Warren County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Warren County Planning for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Warren County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Warren County. North-central NC county near Virginia border. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37187 · Plymouth

Washington County

Population 11,403 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Washington County is a small coastal plain county. Zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Washington County for any local requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Washington County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Washington County. Small northeastern NC coastal plain county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37197 · Yadkinville

Yadkin County

Population 37,667 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Yadkin County zoning in unincorporated areas may require a home occupation permit. Operators should contact Yadkin County Planning for requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Yadkin County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Yadkin County. Northwestern Piedmont NC county. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

RANK 9999 · FIPS 37199 · Burnsville

Yancey County

Population 17,955 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods only. Registration required with NC Department of Agriculture. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B as incorporated by 02 NCAC 09C .0307).
WATER SUPPLY	Must use an approved water supply; well water may require testing.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required as part of the kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required before registration renewal each year.
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Yancey County is a small mountain county. Zoning jurisdiction in unincorporated areas may be limited. Operators should contact Yancey County for any local home occupation requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permitted under state law.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state rule; household members may assist.

Relevant county code

Yancey County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions if applicable); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Yancey County. Far western NC mountain county near Burnsville. State baseline (02 NCAC 09C .0307) applies. Annual kitchen inspection and pet disqualification rules apply statewide.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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