

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Ben Hill County, Georgia?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-06.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

SALES CAP

—

GEORGIA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Georgia permits PDF](#)[Georgia cottage food law page](#)[Georgia Department of Agriculture cottage food program](#)[Statute: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. \(eff. July 2025\); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Ben Hill County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Ben Hill County, Georgia. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

HOW THIS PLACE WORKS

Georgia no longer sells a state cottage-food license. HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) removed the Georgia Department of Agriculture cottage-food license and fee. What may still apply is city or county occupational tax and zoning. This packet keeps the GDA program page so you can read the current state rules.

Official source: [Georgia Department of Agriculture cottage food](#)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Georgia permits PDF →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/georgia.pdf>

[Georgia cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/georgia>

[Permit page for this place →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/georgia/ben-hill-county>

[Ben Hill County cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/georgia/ben-hill-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

Georgia registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.

Georgia permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/georgia.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/georgia

Georgia Department of Agriculture: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

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

Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. Georgia state law does not preempt local zoning. Cottage food operators must check with Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald to determine if a home-based business is allowed in their zoning district and whether a home occupation permit is required.

Health

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

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

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

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

If you rent a commissary kitchen

A commissary is a food-service permit, not occupational tax. Georgia no longer sells a GDA cottage license (HB 398). A rented kitchen is still a food-service establishment permitted by the county health department or the Department of Public Health. Occupational tax is not that permit.

Official source: [Georgia DPH food service](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://dph.georgia.gov/ben-hill-county>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

SOURCES

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

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

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

Ben Hill County and nearby places

Regulation	Ben Hill County	Telfair County	Irwin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated	No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.	No specific state prohibition, but pets should be excluded from food prep areas per good manufacturing practices.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): direct-to-consumer sales, online sales, sales to retail stores, restaurants, and interstate sales are all pe...	Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sa...	Under HB 398, sales permitted via wholesale, retail, online, and direct. Delivery allowed. No geographic sales restriction within Georgia; ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must be produced in operator's primary domestic residence home kitchen only. Secondary homes, vacation homes, or motor homes do not qualify...	Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales ...	Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. ...
FOOD STORAGE	Ingredients and finished products must be stored appropriately in the domestic residence	Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.	All cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.
POPULATION	17,169	15,860	9,487

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

Georgia permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/georgia.pdf

Georgia cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/georgia

Ben Hill County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/georgia/ben-hill-county