

# UPDATE TO COTTAGE FOOD LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- **No State License Required:** Starting July 1, 2025, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) will no longer issue or require a cottage food license.
- **Optional GDA Identifier:** Instead of current address labeling, you can register with the GDA to get an identifier for your product labels.
- **Limited Inspections:** The GDA will no longer conduct routine licensing inspections. Inspections will be limited to responding to consumer complaints or investigations of foodborne illnesses.
- **Expanded Sales Opportunities:** HB 398 allows cottage food operators to sell their products directly to consumers (including online and by mail order) and to retail establishments like grocery stores and restaurants. However, local governments have the option to prohibit sales through third party vendors within their jurisdiction.

## **Cottage Food Items:**

Loaf Breads, Rolls, and Biscuits; Cakes; Pastries and Cookies; Candies and Confections; Fruit Pies; Jams, Jellies, and Preserves; Dried Fruits; Dry Herbs, Seasonings and Mixtures; Cereals, Trail Mixes, and Granola; Coated or Uncoated Nuts; Vinegar and Flavored Vinegar; Popcorn, Popcorn Balls, and Cotton Candy

**Continued Adherence to Regulations:** Despite the removal of the license requirement, cottage food operators must still follow cottage food regulations, including:

- **Water Source Testing (Private Systems):** If you use a private water system (well water), you'll need annual testing for Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform.
- **Food Safety Training:** You must complete an ANSI-accredited food safety training program.
- **Proper Labeling:** Products must be labeled according to cottage food directives and FDA standards.

Visit <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food> for more information