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## Mini Savory Scones with Bacon, Cheddar & Chives

Makes 16 mini scones

Scones don't have to be sweet -- savory scones are such a treat, and easier to make then you might think! Bacon, cheddar, and chives are a winning flavor combination. We love how evenly these baked in a mini-scone pan and can't resist enjoying one (or two) for an afternoon snack or breakfast.

## Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, extra cold and grated

1/3 cup bacon crumbles, cooked and finely crumbled (about 6 slices)

1 cup cheddar cheese, grated

3 tablespoons chives, sliced

1 cup cream

2 large eggs (one egg for the scone dough, one egg whisked to brush on the tops of the scones)

#### Directions:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.
- 2. Measure all of the dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cayenne) together in a medium bowl. Mix the dry ingredients well so that all elements are evenly distributed across the mixture. If mixing the scones by hand, a whisk or broad spatula will accomplish the job easily. If mixing with a food processor, pulse the dry ingredients a couple of times to mix the dry components.
- 3. Grate very cold butter with a coarse grater. If mixing scones by hand, the butter may be incorporated into the flour by (1) using a pastry blender, (2) employing two knives in a scissors motion, or (3) by hand with quick pressing motion. If mixing with a food processor, add the grated butter to the flour mixture in the work bowl. Pulse a few times until a coarse crumb results.
- 4. Add the bacon, cheddar cheese, and chives to the dry mixture, and stir until evenly distributed.
- 5. In a separate, small bowl, whisk the cream and egg together. From this point forward, we suggest mixing the scones by hand. Add the liquid all at once to the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Mix using a folding motion with a large spatula. Do not over mix; the dough will be shaggy in character. Turn the dough and scraps out onto a lightly-floured working surface.

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- 6. Using a light touch, bring the dough and loose scraps together, and gently gather into a single mass. Push the dough around a bit, folding it over 5-6 times. That's it, no more. Too much kneading will activate the gluten in the flour and result in a tougher scone. Use just enough flour to keep things from sticking, but as little as possible.
- 7. Prepare the mini scone pan by brushing with shortening. Divide and evenly pat the dough into a mini scone pan. Brush the scones with an egg wash. Place the scone pan on the middle rack of the oven if too low, the bottoms may darken; if too high, the tops may brown to quickly. Bake for 13-15 minutes.
- 8. Serve warm! These scones are best eaten when still slightly warm. Time the baking step to coincide with when you plan to eat.