**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

**1.** An edible semisolid composition comprising:

(a) viable *Bifidobacterium infantis*;

(b) coconut oil;

(c) shea butter; and

(d) starch,

wherein the composition is anhydrous.

**2.** The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch is corn starch.

**3.** The composition of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the coconut oil and the shea butter collectively constitute at least 80 percent by weight of the composition, excluding the *Bifidobacterium infantis*.

**4.** The composition of any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises:

(a) from 40 to 50 percent by weight coconut oil;

(b) from 40 to 50 percent by weight shea butter; and

(c) from 5 to 15 percent by weight corn starch,

excluding the *Bifidobacterium infantis*.

**5.** The composition of claim 4, wherein the composition comprises:

(a) about 45 percent by weight coconut oil;

(b) about 45 percent by weight shea butter; and

(c) about 10 percent by weight corn starch,

excluding the *Bifidobacterium infantis*.

**6.** The composition of any preceding claim, wherein the composition contains from about 5 billion to about 15 billion colony-forming units of *Bifidobacterium infantis* per dose.

**7.** The composition of claim 6, wherein the composition contains about 8 billion colony-forming units of *Bifidobacterium infantis* per dose.

**8.** The composition of any preceding claim, wherein the composition is provided in a unit dose.

**9.** The composition of any preceding claim, wherein the composition is contained in a vial under nitrogen.

**10.** An edible anhydrous semisolid composition comprising:

(a) viable *Bifidobacterium infantis* in the form of coated particles;

(b) at least one edible lipid material; and

(c) an inert powder carrier,

wherein the coated particles protect the *Bifidobacterium infantis* from oxygen, water, or the surrounding composition.

**11.** The composition of claim 10, wherein the coated particles are microencapsulated particles.

**12.** The composition of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the at least one edible lipid material comprises coconut oil and shea butter.

**13.** The composition of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the inert powder carrier comprises starch.

**14.** The composition of claim 13, wherein the starch is corn starch.

**15.** The composition of any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein the composition contains about 8 billion colony-forming units of *Bifidobacterium infantis* per unit dose.

**16.** An edible anhydrous semisolid composition comprising:

(a) viable *Bifidobacterium infantis*;

(b) at least one edible lipid material selected from coconut oil, shea butter, beeswax, glyceryl behenate, glyceryl stearate, vegetable oil, fish oil, olive oil, soy oil, nut oil, mineral oil, and avocado oil; and

(c) an inert powder carrier selected from starch and cellulose,

wherein the composition is in the form of a cream, paste, ointment, or balm.

**17.** The composition of claim 16, wherein the composition comprises at least two different edible lipid materials.

**18.** The composition of claim 17, wherein one of the lipid materials is coconut oil and another of the lipid materials is shea butter.

**19.** The composition of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the inert powder carrier is corn starch.

**20.** The composition of any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the composition is packaged under nitrogen.