CLAIMS:

1. A nonaqueous, extrudable composition comprising tobacco and at least one thermoplastic polymer in an amount of more than 20 wt% of the whole composition, wherein the tobacco is present in an amount of less than 100 mg in a single dose of the composition, wherein the composition has a pH of 6 to 9.5 when present in a user's mouth, and wherein the tobacco has a size distribution between 0.1 and 600 microns, such that a user's maximum measured nicotine plasma concentration is greater than 4 ng/ml.

2. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one thermoplastic polymer comprises hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC).

3. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 2, wherein the composition does not include a plasticizer.

4. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, wherein the tobacco is in the form of snuff.

5. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, further comprising a mucosal absorbing enhancer.

6. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, further comprising a buffering agent for controlling a pH of the composition.

~~7. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 6, wherein the buffering agent is present in an amount to provide the composition with a pH of 6 to 9.5 when the composition is present in a user's mouth.~~

~~8~~7. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition includes less than 10 wt % water.

~~9~~8. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, wherein the tobacco comprises a tobacco extract.

~~10~~9. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, further comprising a flavoring.

~~11~~10. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, further comprising a plasticizer.

~~12~~11. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one thermoplastic polymer comprises a water soluble polymer.

~~13~~12. The nonaqueous, extrudable composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a silicate material.

~~14~~13. A method for making a tobacco product, comprising extruding a nonaqueous composition comprising tobacco and at least one thermoplastic polymer in an amount of more than 20 wt% of the whole composition through an extruder to form an extruded sheet of the nonaqueous composition, wherein the tobacco is present in an amount of less than 100 mg in a single dose of the product, wherein the extruded sheet has a thickness of 10 to 40 mils, wherein the product has a pH of 6 to 9.5 when the product is present in a user's mouth, and wherein the tobacco has a size distribution between 0.1 and 600 microns, such that a user's maximum measured nicotine plasma concentration is greater than 4 ng/ml.

~~15~~14. The method according to claim 14, wherein the extruding of the composition is carried out without injecting gas into the composition.

~~16~~15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one polymer comprises hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC).

~~17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the extruded sheet has a thickness of 5 to 50 mils.~~

~~18. The method according to claim 14, wherein the composition is extruded at a temperature sufficiently low and for a time sufficiently short to not substantially increase a tobacco specific nitrosamine content thereof.~~

~~19~~16. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the composition is extruded at a temperature of less than 200°F.

~~20~~17. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the composition is extruded at a temperature of 350°F or lower and for a time of 2 minutes or less.

~~21~~18. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the composition is extruded at a temperature of 400°For lower and for a time of 2 minutes or less.

~~22~~19. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the nonaqueous composition further comprises flavoring.

~~23~~20. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the extruder is vented.

~~24~~21. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, the nonaqueous composition further comprises a plasticizer.

~~25~~22. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, further comprising cutting the extruded sheet to form a plurality of smaller sheets.

~~26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the sheets have a rectangular thin strip shape having a length of 1/16 inch to 4 inches long, a width of 1/16 inch to 4 inches and a thickness of 5 to 50 mils.~~

~~27~~23. The method according to claim ~~25~~22, further comprising recycling any discarded portions of the extruded sheet to an inlet of the extruder.

~~28~~24. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, further comprising winding the extruded sheet about a roll to form a roll of the extruded sheet.

~~29~~25. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, further comprising passing the extruded sheet around a portion of at least one roller.

~~30~~26. The method according to claim ~~29~~25, wherein the at least one roller is smooth.

~~31~~27. The method according to claim ~~29~~25, wherein the at least one roller is textured to provide a textured surface on at least one side of the extruded sheet.

~~32~~28. The method according to claim ~~29~~25, wherein the at least one roller is gravured to provide a design on a surface on at least one side of the extruded sheet.

~~33~~29. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the extruder is a single screw extruder.

~~34~~30. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the extruder is a double screw extruder with a pump to pump the nonaqueous composition through a die thereof at constant pressure.

~~35~~31. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the extruder comprises a die and a pump to control pressure on the die.

~~36~~32. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, further comprising shredding the sheet to form a shredded tobacco product and providing the shredded tobacco product in a package.

~~37~~33. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the composition is exposed to heat in processing for less than 90 seconds to reduce formation of tobacco specific nitrosamines.

~~38~~34. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein materials making up the nonaqueous composition are first mixed with a high shear mixer.

~~39~~35. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the nonaqueous composition further comprises a silicate material.