CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A composition comprising:

a lecithin;

a sugar alcohol, a sugar, or combinations of any thereof;

and an alcohol.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the sugar alcohol or the sugar is a solution.

3. The composition of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the composition is a liquid.

4. The composition of any of claims 1-3, further comprising: a cosurfactant.

5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the cosurfactant is selected from the group consisting of cationic surfactants, anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, biobased emulsifiers, and combinations of any thereof.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of fatty amine salts; fatty alkyl quaternary amines including primary, secondary, and tertiary amines; ester amines and corresponding ethoxylated ester amines; and combinations of any thereof;wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of straight-chain fatty acids, polyoxyethylenated fatty alcohol carboxylates, linear alkyl benzene sulfonates, alpha olefin sulfonates, sulfonated fatty acid methyl ester, arylalkanesulfonates, sulfosuccinate esters, alkyldiphenylether(di)sulfonates, alkylnaphthalenesulfonates, isoethionates, alkylether sulfates, sulfonated oils, fatty acid monoethanolamide sulfates, polyoxyethylene fatty acid monoethanolamide sulfates, aliphatic phosphate esters, nonylphenolphosphate esters, sarcosinates, fluorinated anionics, anionic surfactants derived from oleochemicals, and combinations of any thereof;and wherein the nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sorbitan monostearate, polyoxyethylene ester of rosin, polyoxyethylene dodecyl

mono ether, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, polyoxyethylene monolaurate, polyoxyethylene monohexadecyl ether, polyoxyethylene monooleate, polyoxyethylene mono(cis-9-octadecenyl)ether, polyoxyethylene monostearate, polyoxyethylene monooctadecyl ether, polyoxyethylene dioleate, polyoxyethylene distearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monostearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan tristearate, polyglycerol ester of oleic acid, polyoxyethylene sorbitol hexastearate, polyoxyethylene monotetradecyl ether, polyoxyethylene sorbitol hexaoleate, fatty acids, tall-oil, sorbitol hexaesters, ethoxylated castor oil, ethoxylated soybean oil, rapeseed oil ethoxylate, ethoxylated fatty acids, ethoxylated fatty alcohols, ethoxylated polyoxyethylene sorbitol tetraoleate, glycerol and polyethylene glycol mixed esters, alcohols, polyglycerol esters, monoglycerides, sucrose esters, alkyl polyglycosides, polysorbates, fatty alkanolamides, polyglycol ethers, derivatives of any thereof, and combinations of any thereof.

7. The composition of claim 4, wherein the cosurfactant is selected from the group consisting of polysorbates, sorbitan esters, polyglyceril esters, sucrose esters, alkyl polyglucosides, alkyl polyglycosides, poloxamers, pluronics, ethoxylated fatty acids, ethoxylated monoglycerides, sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS), quillaja, rhamnolipids, sophorolipids, derivatives of any thereof, and combinations of any thereof.

8. The composition of any of claims 4-7, wherein the cosurfactant is present in an amount of about 0-60% by weight of the composition.

9. The composition of any of claims 1-8, wherein the lecithin is present in an amount from about 5% to about 60% by weight of the composition.

10. The composition of any of claims 1-9, wherein the lecithin is selected from the group consisting of crude lecithin, fluid lecithin, deoiled lecithin, fractionated lecithin, high phosphatidyl choline (PC) fraction lecithin, acetylated lecithin, hydrolyzed lecithin, hydroxylated lecithin, lecithin comprising enzyme modified phospholipids, and combinations of any thereof.

11. The composition of any of claims 1-10, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises 3-12 carbon atoms.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises a solution having from about 55% of the sugar alcohol to about 85% of the sugar alcohol.

13. The composition of any of claims 1-12, wherein the sugar alcohol is present in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of the composition.

14. The composition of any of claims 1-13, wherein a ratio of the sugar alcohol to the alcohol is from about 60:40 to about 90:10.

15. The composition of any of claims 1-14, wherein the sugar is selected from the group consisting of corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup, glucose, fructose, sucrose, and combinations of any thereof.

16. The composition of any of claims 1-15, wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alcohols, including methanol, ethanol, propanol, and butanol; water soluble alcohols; and combinations of any thereof.

17. The composition of any of claims 1-16, wherein the alcohol is present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight of the composition.

18. The composition of any of claims 1-17, wherein the composition is water soluble.

19. Use of the composition of any of claims 1-18 as a base concentrate to make a microemulsion.

20. Use of the composition of any of claims 1-18 to form a microemulsion with a compound selected from the group consisting of oil, a flavor, a color, an antioxidant, a bioactive, and combinations of any thereof.

21. A water-dilutable microemulsion comprising:

the composition of any one of claims 1-20; and

a compound selected from the group consisting of a soy methyl ester, limonene, an oil, and combinations of any thereof.

22. The water-dilutable microemulsion of claim 21, wherein the oil is mint oil.

23. A method of making chewing gum comprising:

combining the composition of any one of claims 1-20with a flavoring, thus forming a flavoring blend; and

adding the flavoring blend to a gum base.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the gum base comprises an emulsifier.