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**Thoughtful Food**  
**Give Thanks for This Spicy, Savory Cornbread**

By Susie Iventosch



Sweet Potato-Jalapeno Cornbread with Candied Bacon

Photo Susie Iventosch

Last Thanksgiving we published a recipe for a spicy sweet potato dish and discussed the nomenclature for sweet potatoes versus yams, which always seems cause for confusion. Armed with last year's research, I was prepared this year when

shopping for sweet potatoes for this cornbread.

The produce markets in the United States always label the orange sweet potatoes as "yams," which they really aren't. But, to make it easier when you shop for the ingredients for this cornbread,

keep in mind that you want the orange "yams" they sell in the markets, and not the lighter, yellow or off-white sweet potatoes. The intense orange color gives this cornbread a beautiful color, one that is perfect for a Thanksgiving feast.

For last year's recipe and column on Spicy Sweet Potatoes, please visit:  
[www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0919/Yam-it-Up-with-this-Spicy-Sweet-Potato-Dish.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0919/Yam-it-Up-with-this-Spicy-Sweet-Potato-Dish.html)

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com). If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



**Sweet Potato-Jalapeno Cornbread with Candied Bacon**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 large sweet potato (the deep orange one) cooked and mashed (about 1 cup of mashed sweet potato)
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups buttermilk (I used the Darigold brand Bulgarian-style buttermilk, but any buttermilk will do.)
- 1 stick of butter, melted
- 4-5 strips bacon, candied by baking with a small sprinkling of brown sugar on top, and cut into small pieces
- 1 cup grated white cheddar cheese
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and very finely diced
- 1 Ortega (or Anaheim) chili seeded and coarsely diced



**DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 9 x 11 baking dish. (You can also use a 9 x 13, but it will just not be as tall, and will bake for a shorter time.)

In a large mixing bowl, mix cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and brown sugar. In a smaller bowl, mix the mashed sweet potato, bacon pieces, eggs, buttermilk, melted butter, diced peppers and cheese. Mix well. Pour into the dried ingredients and mix thoroughly.

Turn batter out into prepared baking dish. Bake for about 30 minutes, or until done in the center.

Remove from oven and serve hot, or cool and refrigerate until ready to serve. Reheat if serving at another time.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab. [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)

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