INGREDIENTS:

3 russet baking potatoes (approximately 12 to 16 oz each)

4 slices bacon, diced

5 tablespoon unsalted butter

1/4 cup flour

4 cup whole milk

2 green onions, thinly sliced (white and green parts)

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

1/2 cup sour cream

salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Pre-heat oven to 400° F. Bake potatoes until they can be easily pierced with a fork. Cool enough to handle. Scoop out flesh and roughly mash. You want some chunks for texture. Chop the skins.
- 2. Cook bacon until brown and crispy, 6-8 minutes. Transfer to paper towel and set aside.
- 3. Melt butter. Whisk in flour and cook about 1 minute. Gradually whisk in milk and cook, whisking constantly, until slightly thickened about 2 minutes. Stir in potatoes, potato skins and 3/4 of the green onions.
- 4. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and stir in 3/4 of shredded cheese, sour cream, salt and pepper to taste. If soup is too thick, add more milk until desired consistency.
- 5. Serve immediately garnished with reserved green onion, cheese and bacon.

Yields 4 servings @ 2-cup ea.