Gluten Free Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole

**Oshkosh Community YMCA** 

This gluten free chicken bacon ranch casserole is made with an easy ranch cream sauce, bacon and all the right spices. Perfect comfort food!

## **Ingredients:**

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- 1 cup (8 fluid ounces) buttermilk
- 1 cup (225 g) sour cream
- 1 tablespoon white wine (or white balsamic) vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon dried dill
- 2 tablespoons minced dried onion (or 1 tablespoon dried ground onion)
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 pound raw skinless boneless chicken breasts
- 12 ounces dried gluten free rotini pasta
- 3 ounces (3 ounces) sliced bacon diced (about 3 strips)
- 3 tablespoons (42 g) unsalted butter chopped
- 5 tablespoons (45 g) basic gum-free gluten free flour blend (30 g superfine white rice flour + 10 g potato starch + 5 g tapioca starch/flour) (or replace with an equal amount of superfine sweet white rice flour)
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups (12 fluid ounces) chicken stock
- 8 ounces sharp yellow cheddar cheese shredded
- Chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley (optional)

## **Instructions:**

Preheat your oven to 375°F. Grease a 3-quart casserole dish and set it aside. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper and set it aside.

### Make the ranch dressing.

In a medium-size bowl, place the buttermilk, sour cream, vinegar, salt, pepper, dill, onion and garlic powder, and whisk to combine well. This is the ranch dressing.



#### Cook the chicken.

Place the raw chicken breasts on the prepared baking sheet and spoon about 1/4 cup of the ranch dressing evenly on top of the chicken breasts. Place the chicken in the center of the preheated oven and bake until the chicken is opaque throughout and reaches 160°F on an instant-read thermometer (about 20 minutes). Remove the chicken from the oven and allow it to rest for about 5 minutes before cutting it into 1-inch square pieces. Lower the oven temperature to 350°F.

#### Boil the pasta.

While the chicken is cooking, in a large pot of salted water, boil the pasta to an al dente texture according to the directions on the package. I used Barilla gluten free rotini pasta, and boiled it for 6 minutes. Drain the pasta, rinse it with lukewarm water and set it aside.

#### Cook the bacon and make the sauce.

In a medium-size, heavy-bottom saucepan, cook the bacon over mediumhigh heat until browned and crispy. Remove the cooked bacon from the saucepan and transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain, and discard all but 1 tablespoon of the bacon grease.Place the unsalted butter in the pan, and melt over medium heat. Add the flour blend and cook, whisking constantly, until the mixture is bubbling (about 2 minutes). Add the chicken stock in a slow, steady stream, whisking constantly. Cook, whisking occasionally, until the mixture begins to thicken (about 2 minutes more). Add the remaining ranch dressing in a slow, steady stream, whisking constantly until well-combined. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Assemble and bake the casserole.

Add the cooked pasta, diced chicken and about 6 ounces of the shredded cheddar cheese to the saucepan and toss to combine. Transfer about half of the pasta and chicken mixture to the prepared casserole dish in an even layer, scatter with about half of the cooked bacon, top with the remaining chicken and pasta mixture, then the remaining bacon. Scatter the remaining shredded cheese evenly over the top. Place the dish in the 350°F oven and bake until the mixture is bubbling and the cheese is melted (about 10 minutes). Scatter with the optional chopped parsley and serve immediately.

# Nutrition:

Nutrition	Amount % Daily \	/alue*	Amount % Daily	Value*
	Total Fat 35.2g	54%	Total Carbohydrates 68g	23%
Facts	Saturated 16.7g	84%	Dietary Fiber 9g	34%
Amount per 416 g	Trans Fat 0.6g		Sugars 4g	
1 serving (14.7 oz)	Cholesterol 140mg	47%	Protein 44g	88%
Calories 757	Sodium 1078mg	45%		
From fat 312	Calcium 48% · Iron	11%	Vitamin A 19% • Vitamin	<b>C</b> 5%
HappyForks.com	* Percent Daily Values are based on 2000 calorie diet. Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.			

Nutrition is provided as a courtesy and is an estimate. If this information is important to you, please have it verified independently.