

DOWN ON THE FARM

Just south of the fifth-largest city in the United States, Ramona Button and her family grow a variety of drought-tolerant crops, including heirloom tepary beans, ancient grain wheat and several varieties of heritage corn — traditional foods that can help reduce the high levels of diabetes among the Akimel O’odham people.

BY KELLY VAUGHN ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ZICKL



Ramona Button holds durum wheat grown at Ramona Farms, her family's allotment near Sacaton. Since its founding in 1974, the initial 10-acre operation has grown to 4,400 acres.