



# EagleSong Farm



**EagleSong** was created in 1994 by Michael & Paula Williams as a wilderness lodge centered around traditional opportunities of hunting, fishing and tourism. It is located 40 miles northwest of Anchorage in the Alexander Creek drainage at the north base of Mt. Susitna. In the early 2000s the proliferation of an invasive species of fish (Northern Pike) depleted salmon runs to the point Alaska Department of Fish & Game closed the fishery to sport fishing. Like numerous other lodges operating in the area, salmon fishing was the largest portion of EagleSong's business. Without the opportunity to fish for salmon it was impossible to sustain the commercial lodges. The region resembled a factory town where the factory shut down. Businesses closed their doors, people boarded up their homes and businesses and left to find work elsewhere.

Not wanting to leave the home and business they had been building over the previous 15 years, EagleSong was faced with reinventing itself. Armed with Michael's 20 years of military logistics training/experience and Paula's U.S. Army training as an air traffic controller, they turned to peony farming. Their military training, coupled with 15 years of "Bush" logistics operating their lodge, made it possible for them to create, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one of

the most remote farms in the United States.

Today EagleSong is one of the largest peony farms in Alaska. EagleSong's peonies are now shipped across the United States and Canada, and in the beginning stages of shipping to Asian markets.

Pack house operations are located at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA). This allows them to fly harvested peonies direct from their private airstrip on the farm to Lake Hood and immediately move them to the pack house at TSAIA, putting their harvest only minutes from all major air carriers. This is a critical link as the international flower industry undergoes a worldwide transition for "on demand" shipping of flowers. The transformation to online purchases and direct shipping to the client dictates EagleSong's presence at TSAIA.

Today EagleSong can have a peony flower in the hands of a consumer in the U.S., Canada or Asia within 48 hours of harvest. EagleSong can take an order as late as noon Alaska time and have it on the appropriate air carrier the same day. No other Alaskan peony producer currently has a presence at TSAIA or the ability to move a peony to consumers faster than EagleSong.