

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

2018 HUNTER OF THE YEAR

JERRY ARENDS

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FIRST FOR HUNTERS

I WAS BORN DECEMBER, 1944 on a small farm 15 miles NW of Grand Rapids, Michigan. When I was three years old my parents bought a 2000 acre farm near Grant. I have lived in the grant area for the last 70 years. I learned at a young age to work long and hard.

After graduating from high school in 1962, I worked with my parents on a small farm implement business, my dad purchased in 1960. He used it to support his farming which had grown to over 3,000 acres. I took over management in 1965, incorporated the business in 1967 and finally started buying him out in 1968.

The business was growing fast. I then bought property and built a new dealership and after 30 years of a very successful run, I sold out in December of 1998.

I met my wife Jane and we married January 22, 1971. We have three daughters and two sons. We have 11 grandchildren from 5-16 years old.

We bought and sold several farms which was very profitable. We also kept three farms that we rent out. We live on a 40 acre hobby farm that we moved into on July 4, 1971. We raised horses and longhorn cattle. I enjoyed breaking horses to ride and drive.

My hobbies are horses, hunting, and snowmobiling. I started hunting pheasant and white tail deer when I was 12. My first elk hunt was 1978. I've hunted in Montana, Idaho, Alberta Canada and Afton, Wyoming.

My first hunt with Budd Betts, Absaroka Ranch was in 1984. This was also my first elk kill. I hunted with his outfit about 25 times thru 2015 for a total of 17 elk. We grew a great

friendship thru the years. Now my son and three son-in-laws have hunted several years with Budd's outfit. I will be back out November, 2018 for a cow hunt.

Jane and I travel in the summer with our R.V. When we are not traveling we spend a lot of time camped on a 235 acre farm we have on the Muskegon River, which has 1.6 miles of river front. Our kids and grandkids love to be there fishing, kayaking and riding ATV's.

I cannot thank Budd enough for a lot of great hunts and friendship over the years. I thank Budd for nominating me for this award with WYOGA. Thank you all very much. Jane and I are looking forward to seeing you all in Casper on April 6, 2018.

Sincerely, Jerry Arends 🍂

