

Winning with Team HAVE

A behind-the-scenes look into the Angus show circuit with HAVE Angus.

Story & photos by **Mayzie Purviance**, editorial intern

In the cattle barns at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), it's fair to say there is a stereotypical showman lurking in the corner stall of every cattle barn. You know the one: polo cap, short-sleeve button-up shirt tucked into starched blue jeans, cowhide belt, clippers in one hand and show sheen in the other, focused on making it to the winner's circle. But, for every stereotypical showman, there are many who break the mold.

The California group who traveled together to this year's NJAS as a team — Team HAVE — is a prime example.

H ... A ... V ... E ...

Darrell Hansen and Jim “Big Jim” Vietheer started Hansen and Vietheer Enterprises (HAVE) of Wilton, Calif., in 1994 when Darrell's father, Mel Hansen, sold them a cow.

“We never thought we would [have] more than five cows when we first started out,” Darrell says. “Then it went from one to two. Then she had a heifer calf. Then it went to four ... Then we hit that threshold when you're at 14 or 15 cows, and you're keeping five or six every year, and all of a sudden 15 becomes 28 really fast, and then 28 becomes 40 really, really fast.”

Both herdsmen were introduced to the cattle business long before the initial partnership of HAVE in 1994. Jim got his start in 1962 and worked for Mel on two ranches in Nebraska and California.

“I'm in it because of, well, birth,” says Hansen with a laugh. “I wasn't really allowed not to be.” Vietheer and Hansen both emphasize their love of the cattle industry, noting they couldn't see spending their lives any other way.

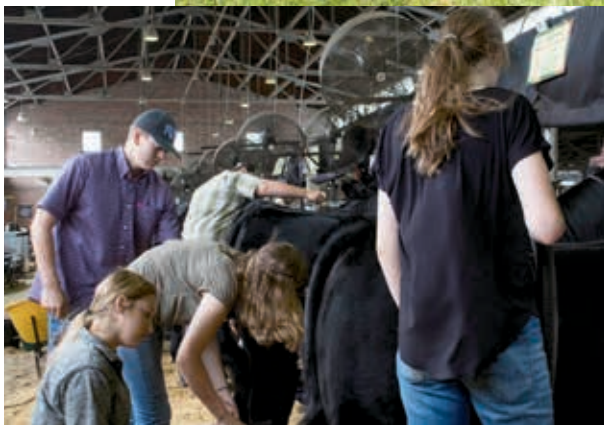
Currently, HAVE Angus is a small-scale operation focused on phenotypic traits for a growing show-cattle program that has blossomed into a group of families who work and show their cattle together as a team.

Outside of their cattle barn, Vietheer



► **Above:** The Hansen and Vietheer families pose in front of their herd weeks before the NJAS.

► **Left:** Junior members of Team HAVE help each other out in the barn during the NJAS.



toys to syringes. Vietheer is a salesman for WW Livestock Systems and also manages cattle for a couple of other herdsmen.

Team players

What started as one person buying a show heifer quickly turned into five families, including 10 juniors, who approach showing as a team — Team HAVE. Among the team members are Joseph Franks, 17;

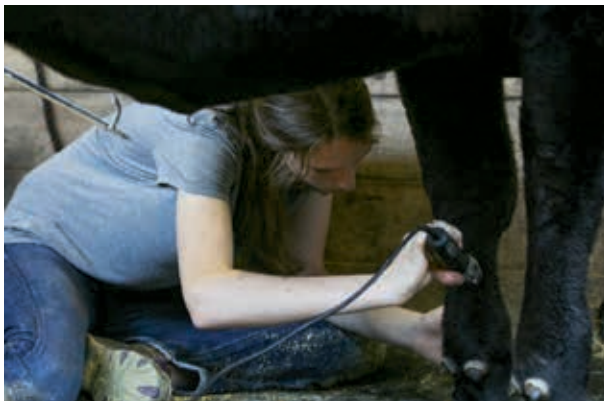
and Hansen both have a passion for the agricultural industry. Hansen works for Veterinary Service Inc. (VSI), a company that distributes all things animals — from chew

Sydney Franks, 14; Arden Franks, 12; Rex Roseman, 18; Wyatt Roseman, 13; Maddie Prechter, 17; Rylee Prechter, 14; Emily Nunez, 19; Andrew Nunez, 18; and Elizabeth Vietheer, 15.

The first HAVE heifer to enter a showing by a member of Team HAVE was sold seven years ago to Rex. Now, 10 showmen are exhibiting various heifers purchased from HAVE in an average of 12 shows per year each. Combined, they have won hundreds of buckles, ribbons and titles.

Vietheer says Team HAVE operates harmoniously. When one person wins, the others are happy for them.

He continues, “If one kid wins and the other one doesn’t, they are the first ones to give them a hug and be their cheerleader. All the kids help and support each other.” This was proven true at this year’s NJAS.



► Members of Team HAVE prepare for the showing. **Above:** Sydney Franks assists in preparing her teammate’s heifer for the showing. **Right:** Hours later, her sister, Arden Franks shows that same heifer in the ring. **Below:** Rex Roseman exhibits his game face at the NJAS.



The 1,800-mile road to NJAS

In March, HAVE Angus hosted its annual jackpot show in Plymouth, Calif. In years past, Hansen had always helped the members of Team HAVE fit and prepare their cattle the morning of the heifer show. This year, he decided to leave it to the 10 showmen to prep the cattle they were exhibiting. What Hansen then witnessed led him to realize their team had become a family.

“They all lined up chutes and helped each other out. Every one of them fit on each other’s heifers and then turned around and showed against each other,” says Darrell. “It was just a great team moment. That’s when I decided, at that show, we’ve got to go to junior nationals.”

On Thursday, July 6, at 4 a.m., Hansen and Jim Franks (father of Joe, Sydney and Arden) set off for Des Moines with a trailer full of Angus heifers and a back seat full of kids.

The crew laid over in Laramie, Wyo., Thursday night for a couple of hours to feed and water their heifers and sleep. After a quick rest, Team HAVE was on the road again, en route for the Becker Ridge Farm in Iowa for the weekend.

Following check in on Sunday, Team HAVE spent the rest of the week at Drew Porter’s residence. Porter had been a good friend of Hansen’s for many years and

extended the invitation to host the members of Team HAVE for the duration of the NJAS.

During NJAS, the members of Team HAVE competed in various contests and activities such as team fitting, team sales, quiz bowl and extemporaneous speaking. They also attended many of the social events.

The showing

Out of the 10 Team HAVE members, five exhibited at the 2017 NJAS: Elizabeth, Arden, Sydney, Maddie and Rex. Joe also attended the NJAS to assist his teammates and get in a “last hurrah” before he starts college in the fall.

From Thursday to Saturday, members of Team HAVE entered the showing. On Friday, Maddie and Arden went head to head in the same class. Prior to entering the showing, the two girls helped each other fit one another’s heifers. It’s that sense of teamwork that makes HAVE Angus so successful.

“There really is no ‘I’ in Team HAVE,” says Maddie. “We’re just like one, big Angus family.”

Each of the members of Team HAVE placed in the top half of the class at the NJAS and walked away with the experience of a lifetime.

“I’ve never been that nervous for a show since I was, like, 10 years old,” says Rex.



“I’ve never had Darrell tell me to slow down since I was a little kid, but that was quite the adrenaline rush out there. It was a lot of fun.”

From team to family

Joe describes his overall experience with Team HAVE as unbelievable.

“I’ve never learned so much from somebody other than Jim and Darrell,” he explains. “They’re wells of knowledge, like an encyclopedia.”

This feeling of gratitude is unanimous all across the board when it comes to the members of Team HAVE. They each emphasized Vietheer’s and Hansen’s generosity.

Teamwork really does make the dream work when it comes to HAVE Angus. Day in and day out they are volunteering to help one another in any way they can. Whether it’s picking up a brush and grooming one another’s heifer or making lifelong memories, the members of Team HAVE exemplify a sense of family.

These showmen don’t just have their eyes on the prize. They take in every moment of their entire show experience. They aren’t concerned with beating the person setting up their heifer beside them. Instead, they give them a high five as they exit the ring — even if they didn’t do so well. They go out of their way to help one another. They are grateful for the opportunities they have been given within HAVE Angus and the National Junior Angus Association, and they aren’t afraid to show it.

Team HAVE is centered around the thought that it’s not so much about winning buckles, but about the experience and lessons they have learned along the way. That’s what the National Junior Angus Show is all about.

