

# Raising Livestock Projects is Educational

As an adult leader, you should help young people understand the eight core concepts of *Quality Counts*, which can be summarized by the three major objectives of the program:

1. Enhance character education for Texas 4-H and FFA members.
2. Ensure that all 4-H and FFA livestock projects meet food quality standards.
3. Promote a positive image of youth livestock programs.

The eight core concepts are divided into two main categories.

### **Character Education:**

- ◆ Six Pillars of Character
- ◆ Purpose of 4-H and FFA
- ◆ Purpose of livestock projects
- ◆ Making decisions and setting goals

### **Quality Assurance:**

- ◆ Impact of livestock projects on the meat industry
- ◆ Responsibility to produce a safe food product
- ◆ Proper use of medications
- ◆ Animal care and well-being

The American Heritage Dictionary defines character as “the combination of qualities or features that distinguishes one person, group or thing from another.” These qualities are usually developed through the day-to-day behaviors a person exhibits. For young people to develop good character, it is imperative that they see good character traits modeled by the adults who are their role models and mentors. When young people witness good character traits being modeled by adult leaders and parents, they are much more likely to emulate those behaviors in their everyday lives (Matula, 2005).

## Six Pillars of Character

(*Quality Counts*, Chapter 1 – Lesson 5, Activities 1-4)

This lesson discusses the components of good character, which may include traits, behaviors or actions. The goal is for young people to understand what good character is, how their actions may affect other people, and why it is important to have good character when raising and exhibiting livestock. Table 6 lists the Six Pillars of Character taught in the *Quality Counts* curriculum.

These activities are found in Chapter 1, Lesson 5 of the *Quality Counts* curriculum:

- Activity 1 – Defining the Six Pillars of Character
- Activity 2 – Applying the Six Pillars of Character to Livestock Projects
- Activity 3 – It’s a Question of Ethics
- Activity 4 – Tight Spaces