



# Responsibility

## Clover Connection

**Head**—Know correct times and dates of events

**Heart** - Know the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right

**Hands** - Work with animals so they are calm and can be moved and handled in ways that don't interfere or endanger other exhibitors or animals

**Health** - Be prudent and self-disciplined with your health, emotions, and time



For Character Counts Activities please visit [www.4h.uwyo.edu](http://www.4h.uwyo.edu)

**“The price of greatness is responsibility.”  
Winston**

## What is responsibility?

Choices, choices, choices. Life is chock full of choices. Responsibility is the moral obligation to choose attitudes, words, and actions and the duty to accept personal responsibility for the consequences of those actions. Responsibility requires that you recognize that what you do—or don't do—does matter. You can't choose to be good looking, smart, or athletic. You can't choose your parents or the circumstances in which you grow up. But you can choose how to deal with life's opportunities. How you make these choices and what they are forms your character. But beware: choosing not to choose is a choice. Look out for excuses in life. Saying “that's just the way I am”; “it's not my fault”; “it's not my job”; or “it was legal” are all excuses. You are what you choose to be. Responsibility isn't about blame; it's about accountability. Responsible people often do more than they're required to do in order to meet their obligations. Accountability means thinking about the consequences to yourself and others before acting, and thinking long-term about what you can do to make things better and to set a good example.

## Responsibility in 4-H

4-H offers many opportunities to be responsible. As a club officer, it's your duty to uphold the responsibilities of your office. As a club member, it's your duty to attend meetings and make sure your opinion is heard. Make sure you do your own work on projects and accept the consequences for the quality of that work, even if it means you have to stay up late or get up early to get it done, paying attention to every detail. For members or leaders, in any situation, if you commit to do something, follow through on that commitment, no matter how tired or other responsibilities you may have. Responsibility means providing adequate housing, care, food, and water for livestock. It also means following the rules.



*Text Adapted from Exhibiting Character! by Wyoming Cooperative Extension and Character Development Seminars Training Materials*

**Find Character Counts activities for your club in the “Good Ideas Book” at your local Extension Office**