



## **Focus on Fish Health Photo Contest Winners Announced**

### ***All Are Committed to Preserving their Waterways for Future Generations***

Photos of two very young anglers captured June's Focus On Fish Health photo contest awards. Bryce Gerbounka, 3, of Raritan, NJ and Ava Neal, 5, of West Lawn, PA are the winners in the two contest categories.

Focus On Fish Health is a public awareness project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) targeting recreational fishing and boating enthusiasts with information to prevent fish diseases and invasive species. The photos will be featured on the [www.FocusonFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusonFishHealth.org) website throughout the summer.

A photo of Ava – an aspiring fisherwoman with positive attitude – won the prize in the *Family Fun on the Water* category. Ava and her father Frank enjoyed a father-daughter bonding day recently fishing on Quarry Hill Farm Pond in Northern Pennsylvania.

Ava baited her own line with the worm that caught the bluegill that she is proudly displaying. "Ava is not squeamish," says her mother, Amy. "She loves bugs and critters. We knew she would be a good candidate to learn to fish."

A gleeful toddler, Bryce is pictured showing off the sunfish he caught "all by himself." That photo won in the *Your Best Catch* category.

Bryce and his brother Evan, 2, were fishing with their dad, Scott, at the Delaware and Raritan canal in Somerset, NJ. "My husband is delighted to have the boys fish with him," says Bryce's mom Sara. "We have two daughters aged 15 and 17, and he tried to get them interested when they were young, but it was no go. 'Too icky,' they said."

The children's parents said they were interested in having their children participate in the USDA sponsored Focus On Fish Health campaign because they are concerned about preserving and protecting the environment where they enjoy their sport. None would ever transfer fish, bait or plants from one body of water to another and all wash their boat and equipment after use.

Contestants may submit photos at [www.FocusonFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusonFishHealth.org) and enter the contest. All winners will receive a Focus on Fish Health duffle bag and their photos will be displayed on [www.FocusonFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusonFishHealth.org).

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