

COMBATting EMERGING BIOLOGICAL THREATS – PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE TODAY

Bioterrorism Launch From The Acts Of Unpunished Agroterrorism

Анатолій Палій NSC IECVM (Kharkiv, UA) **Андрій Бузун** NSC IECVM (Kharkiv, UA)

In the phase of reducing the effectiveness of firepower of Russian weapons, which has become more and more distinct in Ukraine since the beginning of the summer of 2022, the risks of the use of biological weapons by the Russian Federation (RF) are increases sharply. The preparation of Russians for this has been carried out by civil servants of the Russian Federation from the very beginning of the Russian invasion – from constant informational stuffing about the alleged existence of military biological laboratories in Ukraine, as well as numerous demonstrative acts of agroterrorism of the Russian Federation in rural areas to the bombing of veterinary and medical institutions in the cities of our country. Due to the lack of a military veterinary service in Ukraine and the institution of a forensic veterinary investigation of emergency epizootic situations, manifestations of agroterrorism in the Russian Federation are recorded only at the level of state looting - mass theft of agricultural products, agricultural machinery, shelling and arson of fodder lands and grain in the fields, targeted shelling of Ukrainian agricultural enterprises, farmland and elevators. However, individual results of our specialized analytical and epidemiological studies, even if primitive, may indicate the likelihood of the Russian Federation using biological warfare agents under the guise of natural ones. According to our preliminary data, the beginning of this can be attributed to 2008-2009. Therefore, in the context of the martial law introduced in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the issues of livestock biosafety, in our deep conviction, should be addressed, first of all, in the format of countering agroterrorism. In June 2022, the NSC IECVM NAAS of Ukraine offered assistance to livestock and poultry farms in organizing a biosafety system in wartime conditions by developing and methodologically supporting biosafety technological maps adapted to local characteristics, according to the algorithm worked out and tested by us earlier. However, these proposals without real interaction with the relevant structures of the allied countries of Ukraine will not be able to significantly affect the epizootic situation in cases of agroterrorism in the Russian Federation. It is necessary to convince the enemy of Ukraine's ability to resist bioterrorism, which, in our opinion, begins with acts of unpunished agroterrorism.

we are grateful to the DTRA for the opportunity to voice our concerns