Dynamics of anthrax cases in Ukraine during 1970-2013

V. Skrypnyk 1,∗, A. Golovko 1, A. Skrypnyk 2, L. Rublenko 1

1 State Scientific-Control Institute of Biotechnology and Microorganisms, Kiev, Ukraine
2 Metabiota Inc., Kiev, Ukraine

Background: Over 9000 anthrax foci are registered in Ukraine with more than 4000 burials of animals died from anthrax. They are located national wide and have potential threat of animal anthrax outbreaks.

Methods & Materials: Data of State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine and State Statistical Committee have been used.

Results: Preventive measures against anthrax consist mostly of total immunization of animals with spore vaccines. Mandatory vaccination of farm animals shown considerable morbidity reduction. Over the past 30 years the major number of outbreaks was observed in 1979 (33 outbreaks), in 1989 (32 outbreaks) and in 1994 (33 outbreaks). Since 1994 a stable decline of outbreaks number is observed. In 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2013 no animal anthrax cases have been registered in Ukraine. A tendency towards decline of outbreaks is observed along with reduction of livestock susceptible to anthrax which possibly might have contributed to improvement of epizootic situation.

Conclusion: Effective antiepizootic measures against anthrax in general, and revealed tendency towards reduction of anthrax outbreaks number along with decrease of livestock susceptible to anthrax which possibly might have contributed to improvement of epizootic situation.

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