

THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS OF MARTIAL LAW ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

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One of the priorities of the EU's common agricultural policy for 2023-2027 [1] is the creation of an effective model for supporting and promoting knowledge and innovation in agriculture and related areas: rural areas, value chains, environmental protection, climate change [2], conservation of biodiversity, protection of animals [3], sustainable development of society.

In Ukraine, a relatively small number of national studies are devoted to the legal regulation of ensuring animal welfare and their protection from cruelty, which are mostly covered in scientific works of a legal nature [4], which mainly highlight the issues of forming a conceptual attitude towards the organization, development, compliance and official consolidation of regulatory regulation of animal protection [5, 6] in a comparative aspect with the legislation of the European Union.

European Union policy on animal health and welfare consists of harmonized rules covering a range of animal species and issues affecting their welfare. European legislation establishes minimum standards for all farmed animals with regard to the production, maintenance and transport system, as well as the conditions at the time of stunning and slaughter.

The research methodology was based on the method of comparative analysis of statistical data, synthesis of scientific bibliographic sources, state documents and their reflection.

The concept of animal welfare considers that animals must have three important states: biological functioning, affective state and their own nature. The biological functioning of animals – including health, growth, production and reproductive activity. According to this approach, as long as an animal is healthy, grows and reproduces its welfare is safeguarded.

The consequences of global climate change are complicated by the deterioration, at the national level, of the socioeconomic conditions of agriculture in general and dairy production in particular, as well as increasing imbalances in national ecosystems. This is due to the prolonged period of martial law due to Russian aggression, constant aerial alerts, the destruction of critical infrastructure, the release of harmful substances into the atmosphere during explosions, the harmful noise of sirens, soil pollution, the loss of livestock and the abandonment of farms on the front line. The listed factors negatively affect not only the emotional and physical health of the population, but also the health and welfare of domestic, farm and wild animals, which, in turn, affects the quality of the final products that the national population consumes [7] and balance in ecosystems, especially in frontline areas [9, 11].

War threatens the achievement of sustainable development goals in the areas of biodiversity conservation, animal welfare and the environment [8], not only in Ukraine but also around the world. Ukraine is rich in its natural diversity. Its territory is located entirely on the European continent. Occupying 6% of Europe's territory, 35% of its lands belong to the nature reserve fund. There are 5 biosphere reserves and 19 nature reserves and 50 national natural parks in Ukraine. The five biosphere reserves approved by Presidential Decrees include: Askania-Nova, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, and Chernobyl Radiation and Ecological Biosphere Reserve [9] (Fig.). Biosphere reserves are part of the nature reserve fund of Ukraine of international importance, are engaged in nature conservation and scientific research activities and are protected by international norms. At the moment, four of them, except for the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, are under threat due to military operations.

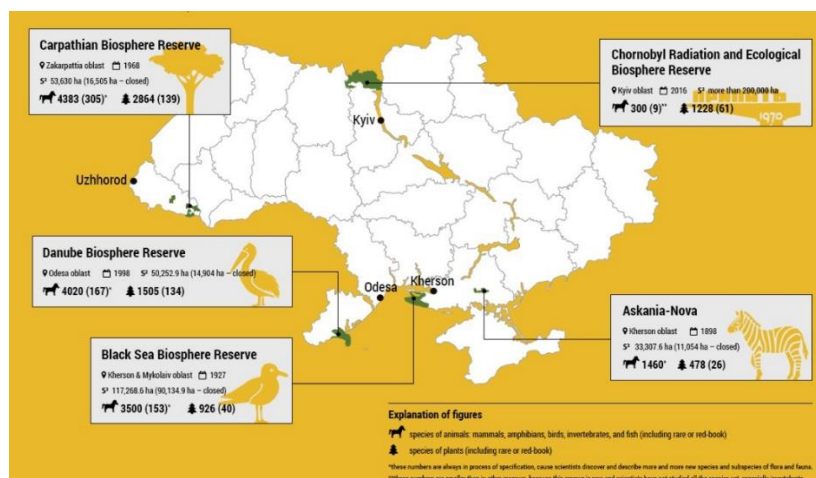


Figure. Biosphere reserves of Ukraine [9]

Due to Russian aggression, in addition to a sharp reduction in livestock numbers in Steppe Zone farms [10], animal health and welfare are deteriorating due to human factors. Mobilization of men to war, who performed such functions on farms as preparing and distributing feed, caring for limb hygiene, cleaning manure, and cleaning stalls where animals were kept. Cattle and small ruminants such as sheep and goats play an important role in the conservation of the Steppe's wildlife, especially rodents [11]. A decrease in the number of ruminants in this area, as research shows, can clearly lead to an imbalance in the Steppe ecosystem, where biosphere reserves of international importance are located. Imbalance in national ecosystems will negatively influence the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 15 - «Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt loss of biodiversity», of which animals of all species form an integral part.

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