

Press Release

**Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
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Shawnee County Veterinarian, Donald Atteberry, Sentenced for Securities Fraud Convictions in Shawnee County

(Topeka, Kansas) – Kansas Securities Commissioner Chris Biggs announced today that Berryton resident Donald G. Atteberry was sentenced Thursday by the Hon. Richard D. Anderson in Shawnee County District Court to 86 months prison for violations of the Kansas Securities Act and theft. Atteberry, 53, was also ordered to pay restitution of \$940,250 to seven victims. All counts were ordered to be served consecutively. In March, Atteberry was convicted of 36 felony counts: eight felony counts of securities fraud, eight felony counts of selling unregistered securities, eight felony counts of being an unregistered broker-dealer of securities, ten felony counts of violating an administrative order of the Securities Commissioner, and two felony counts of theft by deception.

The felony convictions resulted from Atteberry soliciting money from fellow church members and friends for investment in his fraudulent cattle embryo business. Investigation by the Securities Commissioner revealed that the money was not invested to pay for embryo transplant equipment and no shipments of frozen embryos were ever sent to Europe as touted by Dr. Atteberry, a veterinarian. Instead, Atteberry used new monies he received in the scam to pay back old investors their interest payments that were owed on promissory notes that he gave them for their investment. This practice is commonly referred to as a Ponzi scheme. He also used the monies for his own personal use, including gambling at local casinos and paying his own property taxes.

The successful investigation and prosecution of Dr. Atteberry was done with the assistance and cooperation of Robert Hecht and the Shawnee County District Attorney's Office.

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner investigates and prosecutes securities fraud, the offer or sale of unregistered securities and the offer or sale of securities by unlicensed stockbrokers or investment advisers. For more information and investor education resources, visit <http://www.securities.state.ks.us>.