

60 Rare Cattle Smuggled to U.S.

BATON ROUGE, La., June 24 (AP)—Federal and state officials said today they had uncovered a smuggling operation in which 60 head of a rare breed of cattle worth \$500,000 were brought into Louisiana from Mexico.

The cattle, believed driven across the Rio Grande into West Texas and then trucked to Louisiana, were seized at four ranches in this state by U. S. customs agents.

The joint announcement was made by Dr. F. B. Wheeler, state veterinarian of the Louisiana Livestock Sanitary Board, and E. E. Saulmon, veterinary in charge, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, Baton Rouge.

President M. H. Dekle of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Assn. praised the federal and state action for "ending a disease threat" to the Louisiana livestock industry.

Wheeler and Saulmon said the cattle came from the state of Pueblo, south of Mexico City, where the dread foot and mouth disease and fever tick had been prevalent.

Dekle said the cattle were French-bred Charolaise breed, of which there are probably less than 200 head in the entire United States.

He placed the value of the 60 head at a half million dollars in the U. S.

U. S. customs agents at El Paso, Tex., originally uncovered the smuggling operation, Wheeler and Saulmon said.

One arrest had been made on a charge of violation of customs laws, but the name of the man charged was not given.

Investigations are continuing, Dr. Wheeler and Saulmon said, to determine if other persons who received the cattle had knowledge or took part in the smuggling operation.

Both officials said strict quarantines had been slapped on the ranches which received the cattle.