

Illegal Herd Going Back To Mexico

BATON, ROUGE La., Feb. — UP—A much-publicized, \$1 million herd of smuggled Charolais cattle will start back to Mexico "within a couple of days," state and federal officials said Monday.

The 96 animals are now being paint-branded at LaFayette, said Dr. E. E. Saulmon, veterinarian in charge of agricultural research for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

State veterinarian Frank Wheeler added that final arrangements for trucking the large, creamy-chested animals back to Mexico are being completed.

"They'll definitely be out of there this week," Dr. Saulmon said. "probably within a couple of days," Dr. Wheeler agreed.

Plans call for the herd to enter Mexico at Eagle Pass, Tex., Saulmon said, but the definite route has not been set. The route may be kept secret, Saulmon said, "because we don't want a lot of traffic and curiosity-seekers to hold up removal of the animals."

The herd was smuggled into Louisiana in early 1953 by Lafayette rancher Alphe A. Broussard. He is now serving a three-year federal prison term for evading duty on the cattle.

State and federal Agriculture Department officials have held the animals in quarantine at the Christian Brothers school in LaFayette since they were impounded by the U. S. Customs Service.