

## 2021 Kentucky Derby

Traces over the next two weeks will determine the twenty starters in the 2021 Kentucky Derby to race May 1<sup>st</sup> at Churchill Downs. The clear favourite in the various blogs on the subject appears to be Essential Quality, a Breeders Cup winner at two who is undefeated in four starts including his sole 2021 race. Another one highly regarded is Hot Rod Charlie, also a Breeders Cup winner at two who won the Louisiana Derby this past weekend.

The pedigrees of these two early favorites are typical of today's top performers since both are TB pattern to the Nearco Line since both have dams inbred to that line and are by Nearco line sires.

Essential Quality takes things a step further since he is also a double/double. His dam is inbred to Northern Dancer and is by a grandson of Mr Prospector and has a third dam by Fappiano, a son of Mr Prospector. The maternal lines of his sire Tapit also feature Northern Dancer and Mr Prospector twice again with Fappiano.

Looking at the top ten list on the Bloodhorse site we see that eight of them are TB to the Nearco line. Last year's winner Authentic was, like Essential Quality, both TB and DD.

Unless there is another similarly endowed pedigree that shows up in the gate on Derby day my money will be on Essential Quality with a pedigree and cross similar to the \$2.6 million winner Australia by Tapit and from a mare by Elusive Quality that is inbred to Northern Dancer.