Dry cows lunch on TMR with switchgrass alternative

By Frances Anderson

Options abound for switchgrass supply and prices rise. Last year, with a better market, Kees Van Esmeld says they have to buy in trial and error for dry cows. They decided that switchgrass is cheaper per acre than corn, wheat, or alfalfa. The switchgrass is chopped as a replacement for corn silage.

The couple milks 120 cows, and grow only corn and haylage. The past year, it is not raining.

One day, they lower the TMR. Van Esmeld says good management begins before they begin. They are trying to find new ways they can begin.

Iowa Farm

Hees Van Esmeld, Kees Farms Clinton.