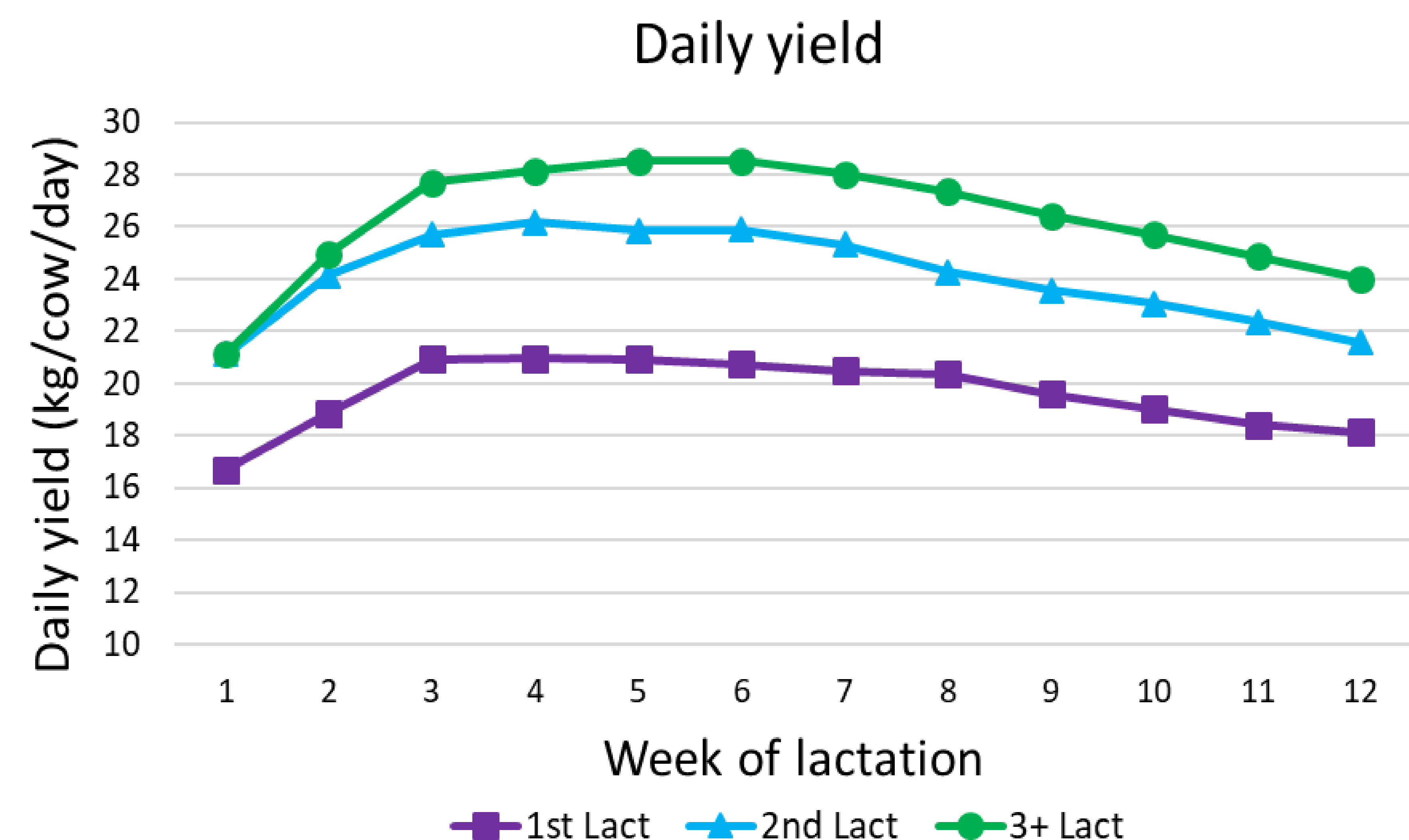
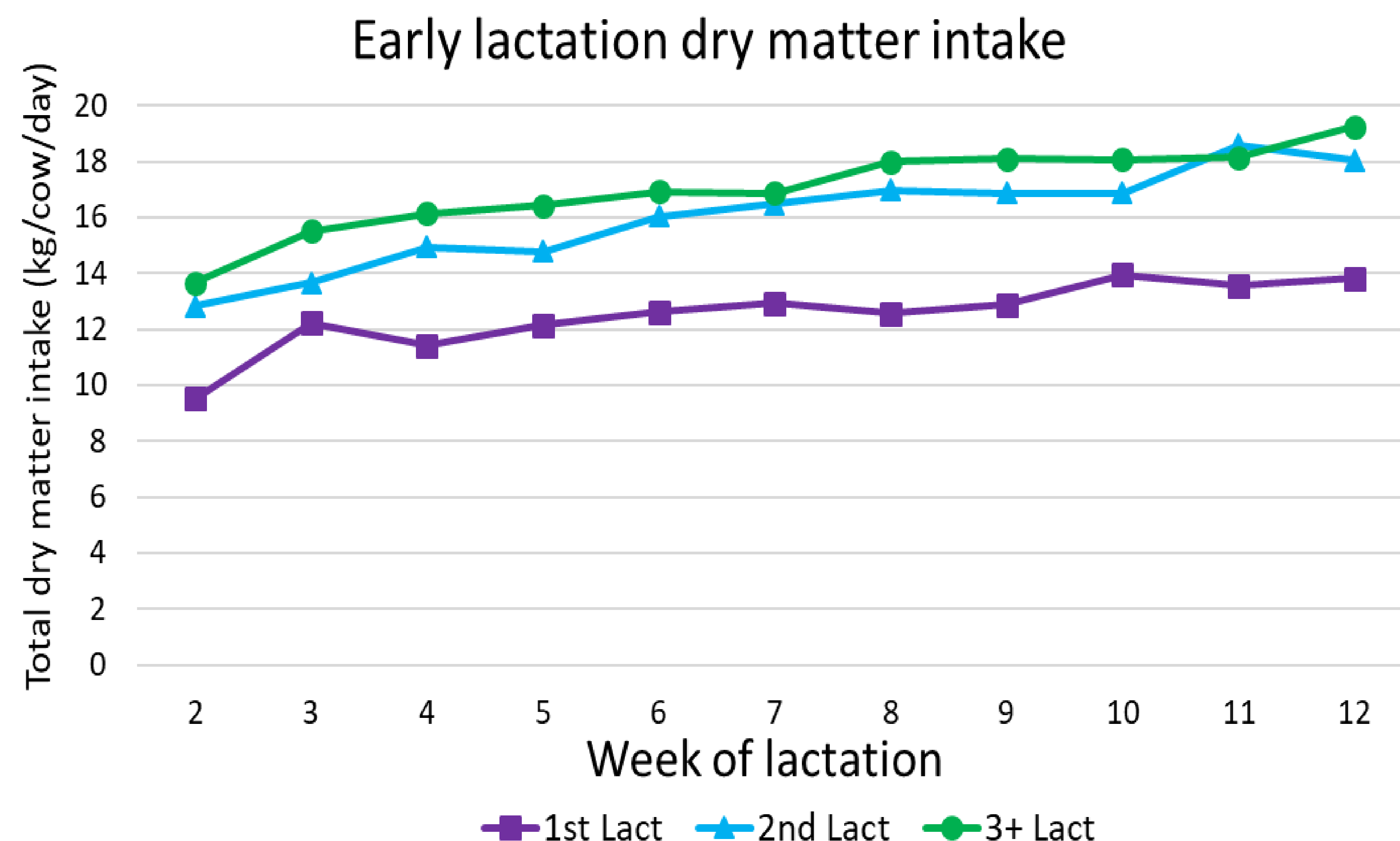


Spring grazing

- Dry matter intake is high during early lactation and increases weekly
- Cows should not be restricted as it limits production



Dry matter intake and milk production during early lactation

- Peak milk yield - week 6 of lactation
- Peak dry matter intake - week 12 of lactation
- Average herd intake was 13.3 kg DM/cow/day at the beginning of February and increased to 16.3 kg DM/cow/day by mid-March
- Dry matter intake increased by 0.6 kg/wk from calving to week 12 of lactation
- Intake of primiparous cows was 24% lower than multiparous cows

Take home messages

Ensure daily herbage allowances are in line with animal dry matter intake profile in early lactation