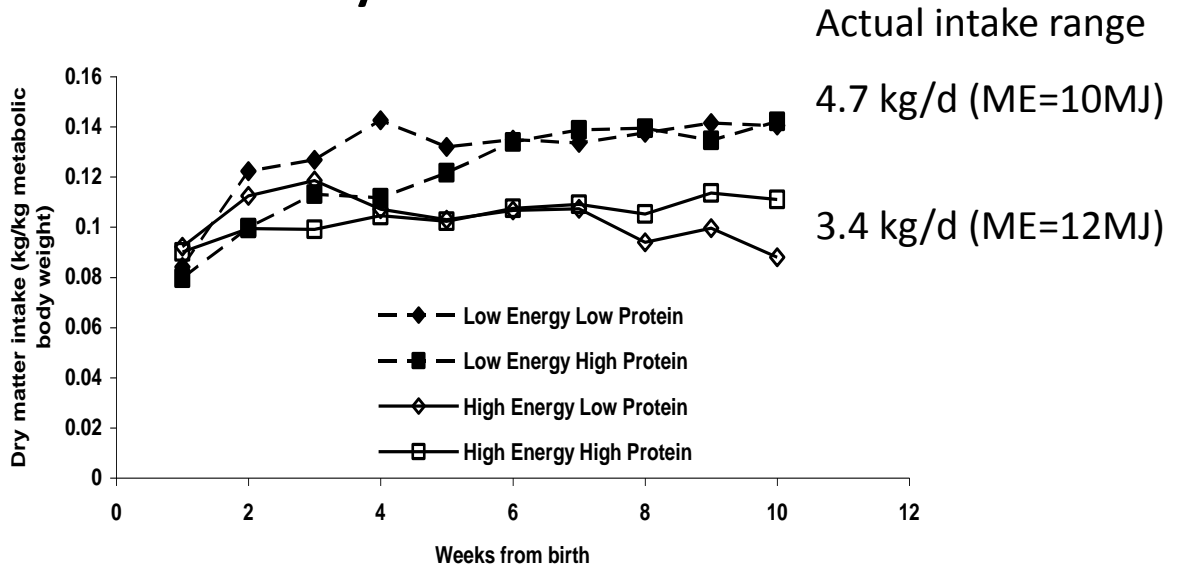


Energy or Protein for Lactation?



Variations in dry matter intake



Deer require both energy and protein during lactation. When we vary both energy concentration and protein concentration the hinds respond by increasing dry matter intake to meet her energy demand.

This difference is approximately 30% or an extra 1.3 kg DM/d (3.4 vs 4.7 kgDM) when the energy content of the feed is lowered to 10.5 MJME/kg

However, when measured as energy intake we see that all diets are the same, showing that the hind can vary her intake to meet her energy demand in some cases. Protein content did not drive any of the change in intake, showing that energy is the important feature.

