

***Citrus Industry Magazine- UF/IFAS SWFREC Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Program  
“What’s Shakin” column***

**February 2014**

Platforms, hydraulic buckets, and vacuum hoses are examples of harvest aids being explored to defray costs of picking citrus fruit. A YouTube video shows a harvesting aid that is currently in use in Brazil. The FC-6 Multiplatform system, designed by Schulter Machines and Equipment, allows for 6 workers to be safely positioned in or near the citrus trees. The picked fruit is placed on a conveyor belt that deposits it into large sacks. The hand pickers are able to individually control their positions to move forward, backward and can also stop the download of their fruit. This system also allows for gentler handling of the fruit.

You can watch the demonstration video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPhObgMLAmY&list=PLF13FB95FA77EA90F&index=27>

or you can link it through our website at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu>.