

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

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Final Numbers for Mechanically Harvested Acres and Boxes for the 2007-08 Season

The Florida Department of Citrus announced during the September Harvesting Research Council meeting that the 2007-08 citrus harvesting season indicated little progress in the growth of mechanical harvesting. Mechanically harvested acreage decreased by 7%. In 2007-2008, 33,100 acres were mechanically harvested as opposed to 35,600 acres in 2006-07. However, total boxes harvested by mechanical systems increased 15%, collecting 9.6 million boxes during the 2007-08 season as opposed to 8.3 million boxes mechanically harvested in 2006-07. With questions surrounding harvest labor availability, the likelihood that mechanically harvested acreage will expand again during the 2008-09 season is very strong.

For further information on this and other topics regarding citrus mechanical harvesting, please go to our website <http://citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu>.