

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

March 2011

Dr. Reza Ehsani, a mechanical engineer at CREC, developed an analytical model and simulation program to evaluate the optimal shaking of a citrus tree canopy based on the canopy volume when using a continuous canopy shake and catch system. The shaker frequency, typically used during harvesting, is around 200 counts per minute (cpm). A series of simulations were performed using various cpms. The preliminary results showed that a range between 65-165 cpm could be the resonant frequency range of trees. Further tests will be conducted. For further information on this project go to:

http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/mass_harvesters/ap0910_MachineEnh.pdf. Also, be sure and check for further information on our annual field day being held in April at SWFREC, Immokalee.