

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

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In 2010, Reza Ehsani, agricultural engineer at CREC, and his team developed a pull behind platform with trash removal ability and fruit cleaning system for use with mechanical harvesters. During the 2011-12 seasons, the platform received some modifications including an addition of a centralized debris gathering area and conveyor, installed a vertical metering gate to help further regulate the fruit flow, and a permanent sensor housing with doors was added to help control ambient conditions. The Machine was tested last winter on different variety of citrus (Hamlin, Parson Brown, Mid Sweets) and the spring 2012 abscission late season Valencia trials to quantify the amount and type of debris in the hand harvested and machine harvested citrus load. Please check our website (<http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu>) for further information on this and other projects being conducted by the IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting & Abscission team.