

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

*December 2010*

**Final Numbers for Mechanically Harvested Acres and Boxes**

During the 2006-07 citrus harvesting season, efforts to expand mechanical harvesting usage were met with good results. Mechanically harvested acreage, increased by 12%. In 2006-07, 35,600 acres were mechanically harvested as opposed to 31,700 acres in 2005-06. Mechanical harvesting systems handled 7% of the total orange tree acreage for Florida. Overall, mechanical systems collected 8.3 million boxes, up from the 7.9 million boxes mechanically harvested in 2005-06. With questions surrounding harvest labor availability, the likelihood that mechanically harvested acreage will expand again during the 2007-08 season is very strong.