

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

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Update on Mechanical Harvesting Enhancements: Autonomous Guidance System

Citrus mechanical harvesting has opened up a new realm of emerging developments, including robotic equipment for additional tasks. Included in these new technologies are the concept of an autonomous guidance system that could be used in various applications, including scouting, spraying, mowing, and more. Dr. Tom Burks, an Ag. Engineer with the UF/IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Program, has been working on the development of an unmanned vehicle using a John Deere E-gator equipped with machine vision and laser radar. This unmanned vehicle was seen navigating through a grove alleyway and maneuvering end-of-row turns at the SWFREC mechanical harvesting field day in April. To learn more about the potential of this machine and the other robotic research please visit our website at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu> and go to the Robotics program site.