

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

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Harvesting citrus with a self-propelled canopy shake and catch system requires that the machine on the left hand side of a tree row move in concert with the machine on the right-hand side. If these two machines are not synchronized with respect to ground speed and steering, overall fruit recovery suffers. Dr. Tom Burks, an agricultural engineer and member of the IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting & Abscission Team, has proposed RF transmitters over the top to establish master-slave along row following and using a trunk and canopy sensing approach to maintain lateral machine position as ways to achieve better coordination of the harvesting equipment. For more details of these ideas, please go to <http://citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu> and open the “Mass Harvesters” tab, then click “Catch Frame/Recovery Rate Improvements.”