

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

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A study done by Citrus Mechanical Harvesting and Abscission program leaders, Tim Spann and Michelle Danyluk, horticulturist and food scientist at CREC, shows that mechanically harvested citrus fruit loads had significantly more debris than hand harvested loads. Debris samples were collected from three different harvesting systems: hand harvesting, continuous canopy shake & catch system and the tractor-drawn canopy shake system during the 2007-08 and 2008-09 season. Fruit load samples were taken from ‘Valencia’ and ‘Hamlin’ oranges harvested during these periods. The same company owned both groves so grove care was similar across both varieties. The study showed that the tractor drawn system (Oxbo 3210) showed the most debris being collected. The benefits learned from this study should help aid in the development of debris removal systems for mechanical harvesters. To learn more about this study go to <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/db/SpannHS2010Vol45No8.pdf>.