

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

August 2012

Gleaning crews are more productive than originally thought according to data collected from the 2007-2008 citrus growing season. Fritz Roka, an economist at SWFREC, collected information from 9 harvesting crews that gleaned and hand harvested 74 individual blocks across 4 groves. The conclusion was that gleaning is likely to be a financially profitable choice under the most scenarios. For example, even when fruit recovery of mechanical harvesters improves to 95% and growers have to pay at least the hourly rate of \$9.54/hr (i.e. foreign guest workers) to glean fruit, delivered-in fruit prices would have to fall below \$.70/p.s. before gleaning would not be cost-effective. Please visit our website at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu>.