

## Sponsored Student Program

### *Editorial Note.*

The Patron Members of the Society sponsor attendance of certain students at the Annual Meeting. These students in horticulturally related fields

are selected by their own institutions for this honor. They write reports for their professors on their attendance at the meeting, abstracts of which are given below.

### MECHANICAL HARVESTING OF CITRUS

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*Abstract.* Research at the IFAS Agricultural Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred is continuing on abscission chemical and mechanical harvesting of citrus. In the Citrus Section at the eighty-eighth meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society, many of the papers presented were on these subjects. Reports on abscission chemicals included increasing the activity of Release with various adjuvants and comparisons of Acti-Aid with Release and Pick-off. A promising new abscission compound for 'Valencia' oranges, DS-27914, (chlorothalonil),

was also reported on. A mixture, containing cycloheximide (Acti-Aid) plus chlorothalonil (tetrachloroisophthalonitrile) works better to loosen mature fruit than cycloheximide alone and causes less damage to leaves and immature fruit. A new self-propelled limb shaker with full power shaker positioning was tested and found to increase the harvest rate over that of a hand assisted shaker positioning system. A paper was also given on the influence of air shakers, trunk shakers, and abscission chemicals on fruit removal and subsequent yields. Two citrus pickup systems were presented that reduce windrowing and increase fruit recovery. Mechanical harvesting of citrus for processing has come a long way in the past few years.

### THE EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE SMALL FARM

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*Abstract.* The Agricultural Extension Service has a dual responsibility. It must disseminate the latest knowledge and discoveries to the large growers and at the same time remember the small farmer and his need for information of a different scope.

Prof. Lawrence Halsey and Dr. Stephen Kostewicz are involved in research to extend the traditional spring and fall growing seasons in North and Central Florida to a year round production, primarily to distribute the small farmer's work load over the entire year and to allow him to grow a wide variety of crops to supply a local market.

This is a valuable and essential service to

the small farmer allowing him to remain competitive. The intensive heat and rains of July and August, together with the frosts and cold of winter, offer the entire gamut of conditions and problems related to plant growth. Their work includes small scale production practices, disease, insect, nematode and weed control with major emphasis on selecting adapted varieties. Consecutive plantings are made of short-season crops such as green beans throughout the summer; and with long-season crops an extended culture is practiced. For example, eggplant planted in early spring were still producing marketable fruit the following fall.

I was truly impressed and encouraged with the involvement of IFAS in serving all the people. Their role is vital to the world problems facing mankind, yet manages to remain personal with social conscience as the underlying goal.