

## Smart Spud Project Ongoing in TCAA

Thanks to The University of Florida's Horticultural Sciences Department and The Partnership for Water, Agriculture and Community Sustainability, research is being done in the Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA) to help lessen bruising potential in potatoes. The "Impact Recording Device" or "Smart Spud" measures bruising potential in potatoes, during post harvest handling, through G-force impacts. The unit is sent through the packing lines along with the potatoes, traveling from the field to the Semi-truck being loaded at the farm. The IRD will determine the potential spots on the packing line where bruising may occur due to smashing, drops, mishandling and or piling. By using this technology we can make a significant economic impact on the farms. If we can reduce bruising by 1% we can turn that into a net gain of \$10,000.00 to \$30,000.00 for the grower, instead of losing his crop to bruising we can help him increase the quality of his product and get a higher return on his potatoes.