PERCH Design Review

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Background

• Purpose: To create a machine that will aid orchard workers in safely and efficiently pick pears and apples on an inclined surface.

Specifications

Design a machine that:

- Allows 1-2 pickers to safely pick from heights 6' to 13' off the ground
- Incorporates emergency safety features
- Propels itself on terrain that has grades as high as 25%
- Provides for stationary picking/pruning on grades up to 25%
- Moves fruit from ladder to bin without bruising
- Transports fruit bins of up to 1100 lbs
- Overall decreases current picking time

Basic Design Areas

Worker Placement

• Allow the worker to pick from the edge of the tree to the center of the tree

• Bin Management

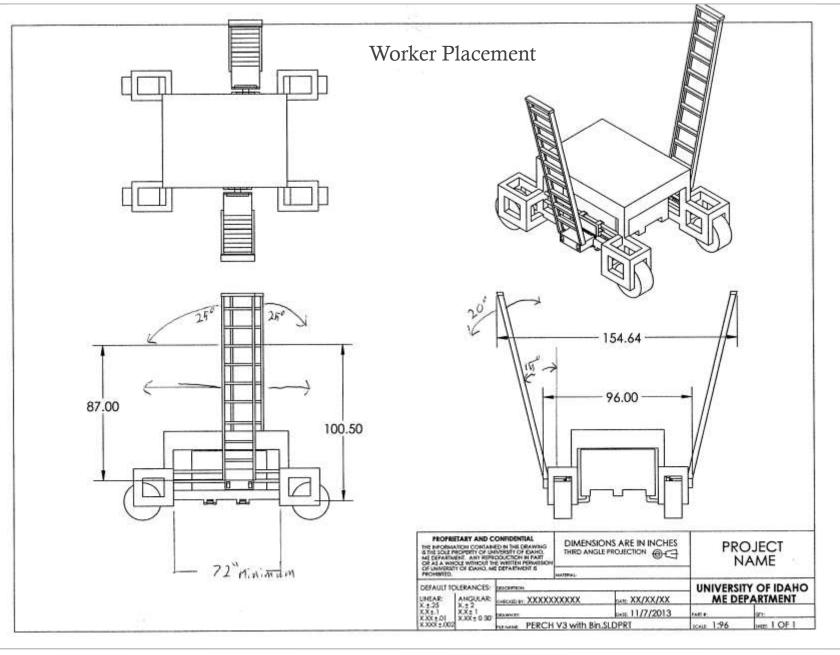
• Pick up and transport bins as they are being filled

• Fruit Transport

• Transport fruit from the picker to the bin and then fill the bin without damaging the fruit

Current Design

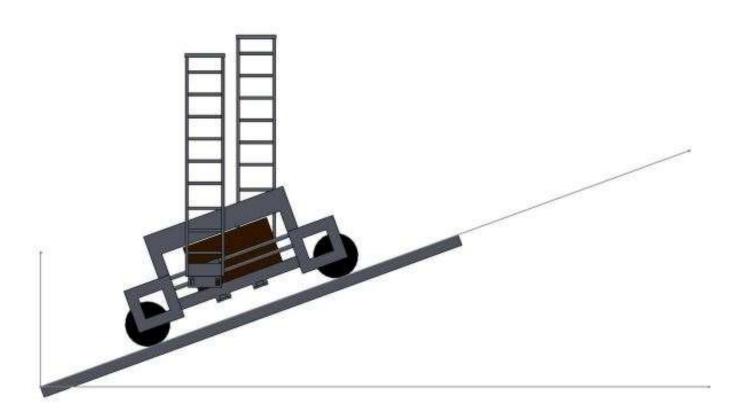
- Our design has been modeled to show some of the options for the three basic problems areas.
- Ladders on each side of the machine will accommodate 2 workers.
- Ladders are on rails to slide along the machine, and then can have the angle adjusted in 2 directions depending on slope and worker need.



Side Hill

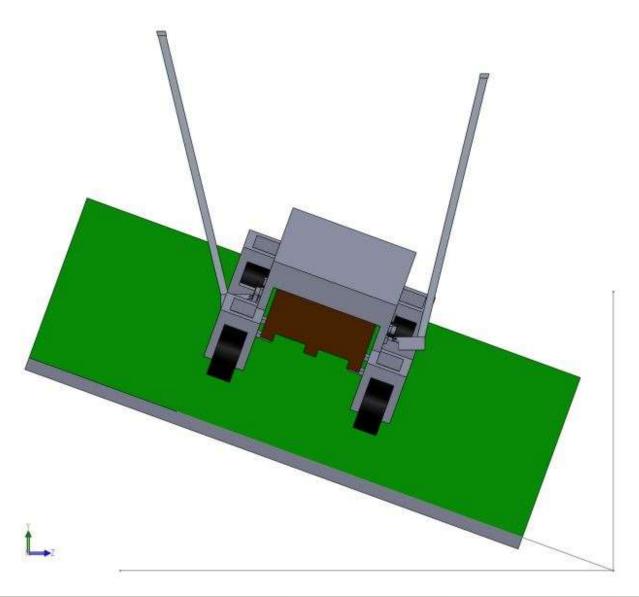


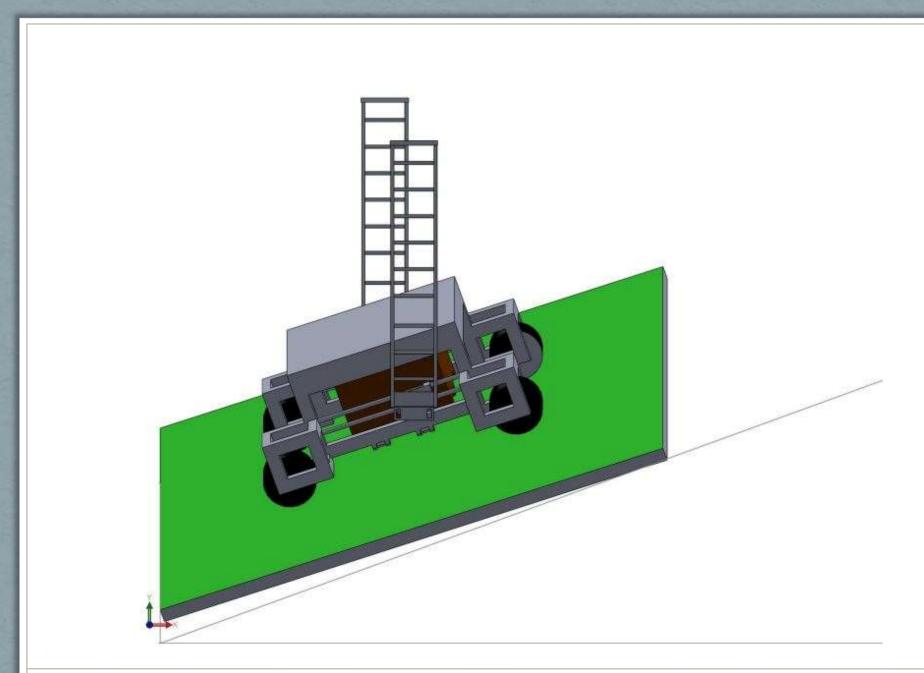
Uphill





Combination

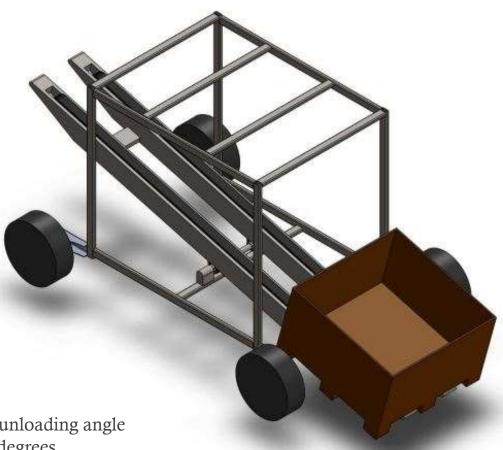




Bin Management

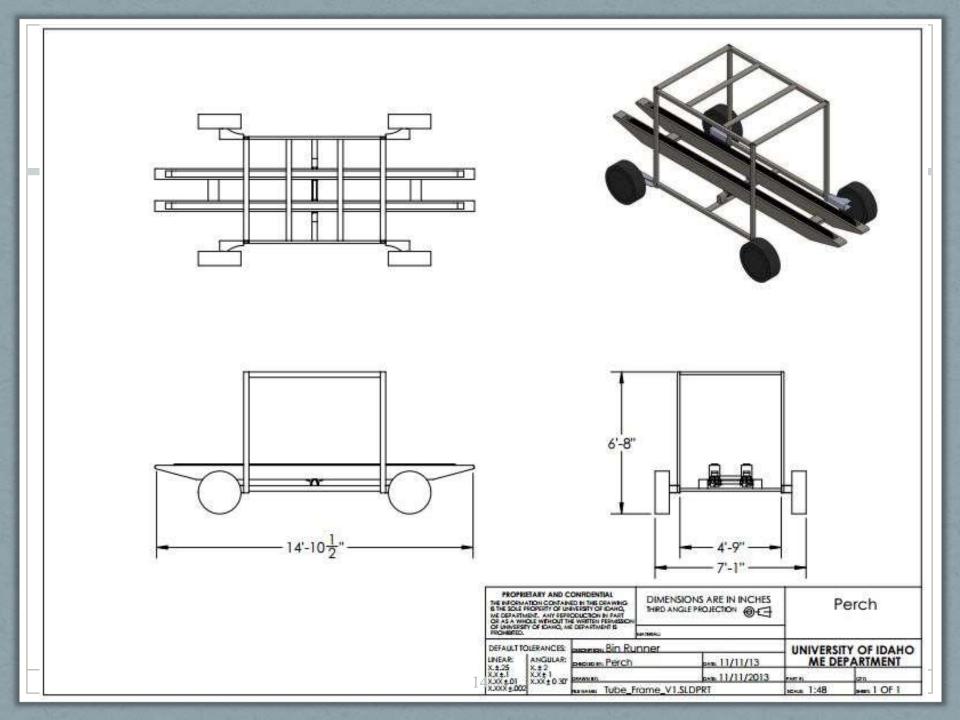
- Bin will be picked up and dropped off via conveyor
- Can be picked up and dropped off in line with machine

Loading Bin



- •Maximum unloading angle of bin is 37 degrees
- •Guides to direct bin through machine

Secured Bin Location

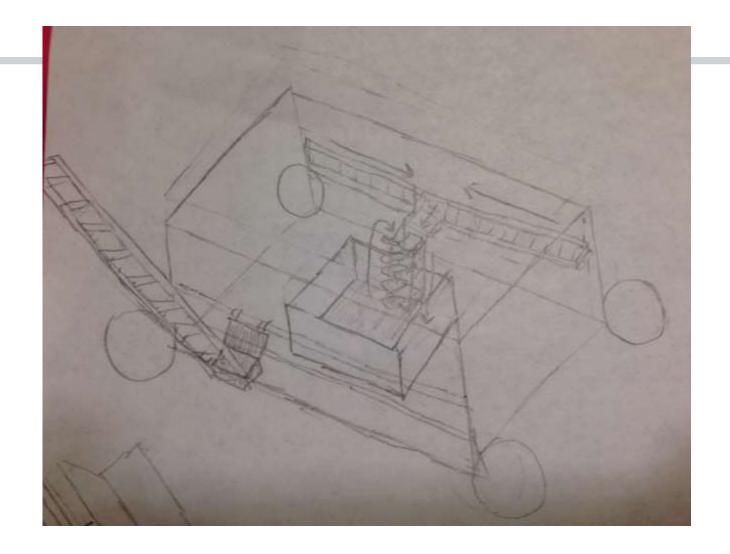


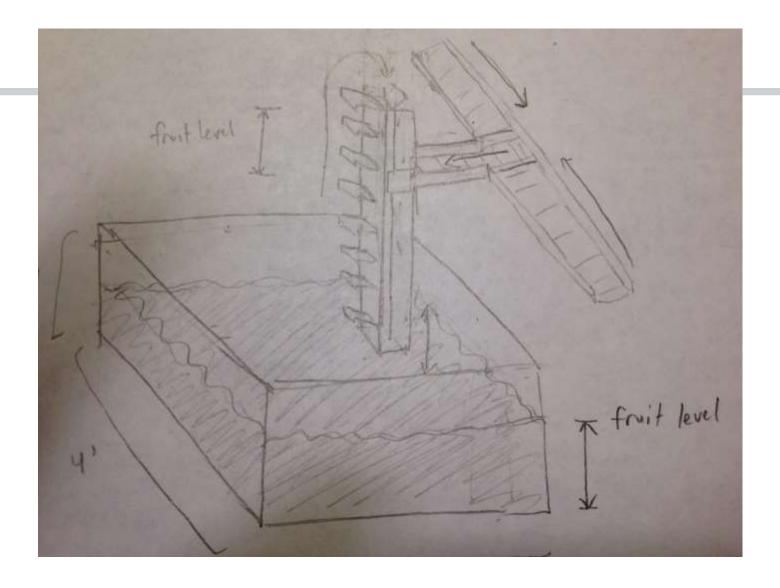
Fruit Transport

- Conveyor Belts next to ladder for workers to place fruit on.
 - Cleats to prevent fruit rolling
- Fan-like distribution of fruit into bin evenly and softly
 - A sensor would raise the fan as the bin fills









Future Plans

- Safety
 - Ladder Harnesses
 - Emergency stops
- Prototype: Frame, ladder, bin management next semester (not self propelled)

3-D Models solutions

- Self propulsion, steering
- Fruit transport decision
- •

If time and budget allow, we will implement a self propelling component so that the PERCH will not need outside assistance.



Questions & Comments