"A TIME TO PLANT, A TIME TO REAP"
Montage #265

In California and in New Jersey and New York, migrant farm laborers are fighting for their human rights, as well as a fair wage. So too in Ohio, where the newly-formed Farm Labor Organizing Committee is struggling to increase benefits and improve living conditions for the migrants who stream through Ohio by the tens of thousands.

The Mexican-Americans who pick our tomatoes (Ohio's number one crop) and cucumbers, providing framers and processors with healthy incomes and purchasers with sustenance, are herded around the country like cattle, living in little more than swept-out chicken coops or storage bins for three months here and three months there. At the height of this season's tomato picking, Montage traveled with the migrant workers in western Ohio, filming how they live and work. "A Time to Plant, A Time to Reap" is an examination of the miserable working and living conditions of these American citizens, and what is being done to improve their life.

Baldomar Velasquez, a 21-year old Blufiton College senior and former migrant laborer, spent the summer organizing the workers (in the model of Cesar Chavez, also seen on this program), and calling a successful strike. His efforts and activities will be a major element in this 30-minute color documentary produced by Bill Leonard and Paul Schoenwetter and written and Paul Schoenwetter.