



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

## **Community Connect Awards – Illinois**

### **2003 Grant Awards:**

#### **B & J Computers**

**Vergennes, Illinois**

**Grant Amount: \$364,871**

**Contact: Ms. Carole Spurling, 618-687-4459**

**County: Jackson**

Vergennes, Illinois is a small rural community with a population of 491. The residents have suffered from the decline of the coal industry. The community has no existing broadband service hampers both essential services and possible economic development. The elementary school, community center, fire department, ambulance service, city government and water department will all participate and benefit in the project. Broadband service will allow the establishment of home based businesses and encourage established community businesses to expand. Marketability and employment opportunities for residents will be increased due to the availability of online education, training and professional certification.

#### **Mt. Vernon.Net, Inc.**

**Blueford, Illinois**

**Grant Amount: \$309,703**

**Contact: John Scrivner, 618-244-6868**

**County: Jefferson**

The Mayor of Blueford has established a Broadband taskforce, which together with Mt. Vernon.Net, Inc., has set out a vision for the future with specifics and timetables for how this new technology can revive the village's economic problems. The project will create a wireless network, designed to work like a corporate infrastructure with homes, police, emergency rescue, businesses, and telemedicine connected together. Residents will be able to telecommute from their homes; students download class work from class websites and police, fire and emergency crews save lives and protect property more efficiently.