



## **BROADBAND INSTALLATION PROJECTS**

Broadband service is a necessity for today's modern farmer. However, if broadband equipment and fiber optic lines are being installed in the area, landowners need to understand their rights.

Contractors installing broadband equipment or fiber optic lines in road rights-of-way must have a permit or approval from the road authority responsible for the road before installation. **If the road authority does not own the right-of-way, the contractor must also get an easement from the landowner.**

Landowners should determine if they own the road right-of-way. If so, the landowner should demand the contractor or broadband company seek an easement for use of the right-of-way. An easement should be sought whether the installation will occur below or above ground.

Installation of broadband equipment and fiber optic lines below ground can damage property, damage existing drain tile, and impact the ability to make drainage improvements in the future. Installing the equipment on existing power poles may limit the ability to operate farm equipment in a field.

An easement for installation of broadband equipment or fiber optic lines should address items like repair of compacted soil, repair of damaged drain tile, height of above ground lines, and other property damages. The easement may also include compensation for use of the right-of-way.

These easement items are only the beginning. **Landowners should carefully consider all the property rights impacted by the installation of broadband equipment or fiber optic lines.**

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding a broadband installation project in your area, your County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau area here to help.

