Leigh Murphy of Fraser has roots in Middle Park that reach back to the 1880s when his great grandparents traveled from Austria and homesteaded a ranch south of Granby. His parents purchased land in the Fraser Valley in 1934, land that is still owned and operated as a ranch by Leigh and his family.

Born in 1947, Leigh is a lifelong resident of Grand County. He and his wife Deane keep their primary residence at the ranch located on Grand County Road 5 in the Fraser Valley. They also own a ranch near Roswell, New Mexico and they split their time between the two cattle ranches.

The Murphys have found a good balance of ranching between the New Mexico and Colorado cattle operations as they ship their yearlings from New Mexico to Colorado. Their children, Sabrina and Andy, are assuming the reins and responsibility of the family operation. Sabrina and her husband Justin live at and operate the New Mexico operation, while Andy and his wife Paige are based at the Colorado ranch. Leigh and Deane help in both places and enjoy their three grandchildren.

Involvement with the Middle Park Fair has been a part of their lives for many years. Leigh remembers showing lambs and steers at the fair and, up until a few years ago, a favorite pastime had been team roping. Throughout his life, he has roped in several events and ridden bareback broncs and bulls.

Leigh was superintendent of the beef show for over 20 years and he served on the Fairboard as vice-president for two terms and as president for two terms. Deane was the leader of the Flying Heels 4-H Club and helped with the annual quarter horse sale when it was a part of the fair in the 1980s.

Leigh says that he has always enjoyed ranching and living in Middle Park. However, he notes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to ranch in the Fraser Valley as the number of people grows and development encroaches on land that was previously dedicated to agriculture.