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Sheep and lamb prices setting records

Livestock agents are warning sheep and lamb prices could go even higher, despite record sales in some markets.

Surging sheepmeat prices and a shortage of stock are seeing breeding ewes regularly sell for more than \$200 each.

But Elders livestock agent Jim Coffey says the prices are still viable for producers, and it's possible they will keep rising.

"I think it certainly is for those reasons that I just mentioned. High lamb prices, high mutton prices, wool is going along steady but still not too bad," he says.

"But I think anybody that's got sheep in the paddock can still purchase in and buy into these prices.

"It's very hard if you've got no sheep to finance you into them, but I think they still can be bought at these prices."

A new record has been set for the price paid for a pen of lambs in NSW.

A mob of lambs sold for \$191 each at the Cowra Saleyards on Friday.

They weighed more than 26 kilograms.

And a world record has been set at the 172-year-old Campbell Town Show in Tasmania.

On Saturday, the show's inaugural prime lamb competition concluded with a record-breaking auction of the prize-winning lamb.

Beechford second-cross lamb producer, Ben McBride, was the overall winner with a 18-22 kilogram trade lamb.

Organiser Andrew Calvert says the auction achieved \$25 a kilogram for his hook-winning lamb, which is a world record on a per-kilogram basis.

"It was really encouraging to see some leading restaurateurs and chefs bidding at that auction," he says.

"They are right behind this competition.

"They think it's a fantastic concept and they backed it up with the hip pocket."

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