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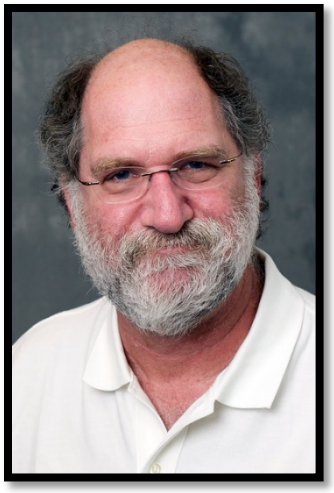

Dr. Cliff Weil earned his bachelor's degree in Genetics from UC Davis in 1978 and his doctoral degree in Genetics and Development from Cornell University in 1984. He has taught an undergraduate Introductory Genetics course, a course on Geneitcs and Society, and graduate courses in Advanced Plant Genetics and in Genomics. He is also a member of the Purdue Center for Plant Biology and the Whistler Center for Carbohydrate Research, a group including food chemists, engineers, and biophysicists working with food and ingredient companies around the world to bring advances in carbohydrate research to bear on food and industrial problems, improvements and development.

Dr. Weil's lab works on using genetics and genomics for cereal crop improvement, largely in maize and sorghum. He and his team are primarily interested in understanding how to improve the digestibility of the starch and protein in the grain for food and feed uses. They are also looking at the basic genetic controls that determine how, when and where sugars move throughout the plant, a central question for both development and yield. As part of these projects they have been involved in developing some of the world's largest-scale genetic mutant resources in both maize, sorghum and most reently in pearl millet, for deployment to these communities worldwide. These resources have allowed them, and others, to begin looking at a wide range of biological questions (nutritional quality, morphology, metabolism, development, signaling, just to name a few) using a combination of forward and reverse genetic approaches. Developing extensive catalogues of all the mutations in all the genes of these lines is providing a platform both for understanding gene function and for understanding the genetic diversity available to breeders for these genes in diverse materials around the world.

Website: https://ag.purdue.edu/agry/directory/Pages/cweil.aspx